

# Leadership key to ending military gay ban

*President Barack Obama to sign the bill on Wednesday*

*Read Page A5*



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On The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: 582-7800 Tuesday, December 21, 2010

## N.Korea backs away from threat to attack South

AHN YOUNG-JOON  
FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press

YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP) — North Korea backed off threats to retaliate against South Korea for military drills Monday and reportedly offered concessions on its nuclear program — signs it was looking to lower the temperature on the Korean peninsula after weeks of soaring tensions.

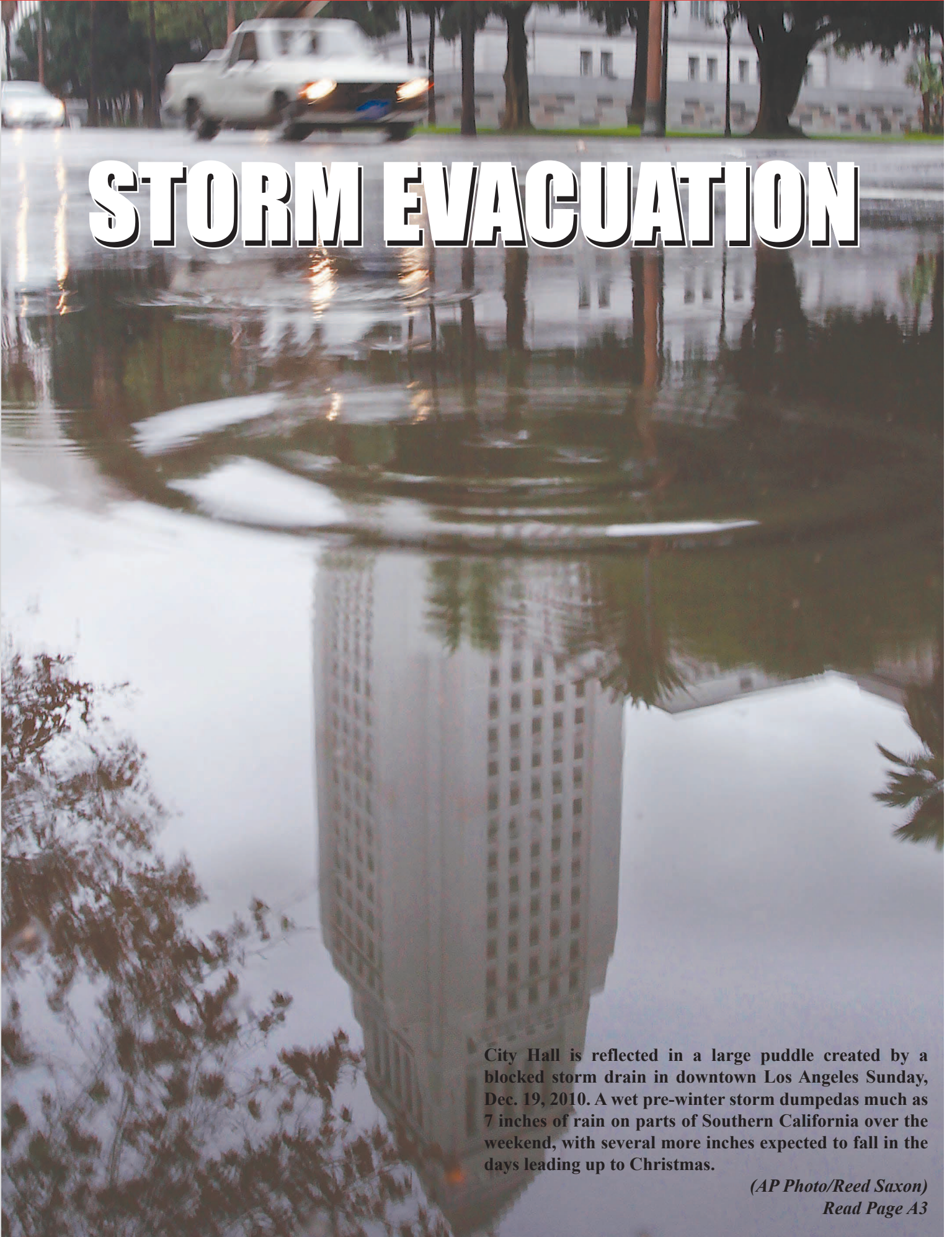
But Pyongyang has feinted toward conciliation before and failed to follow through. The North's gestures came after South Korea launched fighter jets, evacuated hundreds of residents near its tense land border with the North and sent residents of islands near disputed waters into underground bunkers in case Pyongyang followed through on its vow to attack over the drills.

"It appears that deterrence has been restored," said Daniel Pinkston, Seoul-based analyst with the International Crisis Group think tank. "The North Koreans only understand force or show of force."

This is not the first time that the North has taken the international community down this road. The North has previously been accused of using a mix of aggression and conciliatory gestures to force international negotiations that usually net it much-needed aid. Real progress, meanwhile, on efforts to rid the North of its nuclear weapons programs has been rare.

*Continued on Page A14*

## STORM EVACUATION



City Hall is reflected in a large puddle created by a blocked storm drain in downtown Los Angeles Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. A wet pre-winter storm dumped as much as 7 inches of rain on parts of Southern California over the weekend, with several more inches expected to fall in the days leading up to Christmas.

*(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)*

*Read Page A3*



# Exonerated Texas man uses freedom to help others



HOUSTON — A courthouse seems like the last place Michael Anthony Green would choose to spend his time following his release this summer after 27 years in a Texas prison for a rape he didn't commit.

But each weekday, Green walks past metal detectors and police officers in the lobby of the Harris County Criminal Justice Center and makes his way to the 20th floor. There, he sits in a small office and pores through letters written

by inmates discussing possible problems with their cases.

Since his release in July, after new DNA tests showed he was innocent, Green has worked for his attorney as a volunteer, reading letters from inmates, looking for others who might be wrongfully imprisoned.

"We might find a case where there's another me that I can help," said Green, 45.

According to the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal center that uses DNA to challenge convictions, 261 inmates in the U.S. have been exonerated post-conviction with DNA, most of them since 2000. Texas leads the nation with 40 cases. After his release, Green's attorney, Bob Wicoff, approached Green about working for him to review cases. Wicoff said he became impressed with Green's knowledge of the law during their prison visits. "It was pretty apparent he knew a lot more law than any other inmate I've met," Wicoff said.

Each day, Green reads inmate letters and fills out a two-page form that summarizes the claims and whether they have merit. Green looks for cases where DNA could play a factor. A typical letter is one written by an inmate in prison for rape. The inmate claims the victim sought charges because he broke his promise to give her illegal drugs. The inmate also claims he had a bad attorney.

"He doesn't deny having sex but that it was consensual," said Green, a stack of other letters next to him. "There is nothing that can be challenged, other than the ineffective assistance of counsel. But that is his word against the attorney's."

Green said most of the letters he reads are about burglary, robbery and murder cases where inmates claim they are innocent but that nothing can be done because either there is no DNA to test or such testing wouldn't make a difference.

Wicoff said while the focus is DNA cases, they are also on the lookout for other potential legal problems.

Once motivated by anger, Green said he is now driven by a need to help others who might have been wrongfully convicted and by, of all things, a love for the law.

That love for the law began, oddly enough, after Green was convicted in 1983 for raping a woman who had been abducted by four men from a pay phone in north Houston and taken to a remote location. Green was detained by officers that night as he walked in the area. The victim misidentified Green as one of her abductors. Green was convicted of aggravated sexual assault and sentenced to 75 years in prison. He was the only person convicted in the case. Green entered prison four months after turning 18.

"My first three years in prison, I didn't do nothing but act a fool. I was mad about being in prison," said Green. □

## In tough economy, Santas are also suffering

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Craig McTavish a.k.a. Santa has the beard. He has the belly. He even has a few tricks up his sleeve, like pulling up to parties on his Harley-Davidson in full Kris Kringle garb.

But there's one thing he doesn't have: work.

For freelance Santas, this holiday season has been more "no, no, no," than "ho, ho, ho." Bookings have declined as paying \$125 an hour for Santa to visit a holiday party has become an unaffordable luxury. It's the second year of declining parties and events, Santas say.

"This year has been a bust as far as making any money," said McTavish, a retired firefighter who co-owns a landscaping business with his son. "I've booked nothing. Usually there's always something for Christmas Eve, but I don't even have that."

In addition to knowing which children have been bad or good, the modern-day Santa also hears which families don't have enough money for presents.

"You can see the downturn from the chair," said Nicholas Trolli, the president of the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, a 1,700-member social group the Boston Herald once dubbed "The Nation's Premier Fraternity of A-List Santas." Trolli lives in Sarasota, Fla., but travels around the country as a hired Santa. On a recent day, he worked a mall in Kansas City that had to lower photo prices by 20 percent. "People are telling us they just can't afford a photo with Santa," Trolli said.

Even in-demand Santas with real beards have had to slash rates, Trolli said. They once commanded \$200 an hour, but now they're charging half that. Trolli said that anecdotally, his members' bookings are off about 25 percent. Other Santas around the nation said that in good years, they booked 40 events a season and are down to fewer than 10. Others who once booked 10 events a year are down to none.

Most Santas don't rely on the gigs as a primary source of income, but they say they

enjoy doing it and the extra money is nice.

John Wenner, a Santa with a real beard from Woodbury Heights, N.J., said his last good year was 2008, when he booked dozens of private parties and corporate jobs. This season, he's only had a few gigs.

"They're way down this year," Wenner said. "It's amazing how down. I've even cut back my price a little bit, to help sway a little more business. As it is, the way the economy has been, it's getting tough."

Despite the less-than-jolly economic climate, Santas said the joys of the job mostly make up for the tough times. They love talking to kids, making adults laugh and spreading some holiday cheer in a year where joy has been in short supply. Several mentioned buying presents or even Christmas trees for needy families. Trolli's group encourages members to book charity events for free or reduced prices if they don't get paying gigs. A lucky few mostly in wealthier parts of the country are reporting a



booming business.

Doug Peters of Davie, Fla., said he's had an excellent couple of years; last year, a wealthy customer on the exclusive South Florida enclave of Fisher Island asked him to work Christmas Eve. Peters charged \$500 an hour and the customer didn't blink. Still, being Santa isn't cheap. A decent-looking fake-fur trimmed red jacket, hat, pants and boots cost upward of \$1,000. And that's not even counting an authentic-looking beard.

Walter J. Wood also known as Santa Woody is a Phoenix-area Kris Kringle who looks like something out of a holiday

Coca-Cola ad. The \$100 an hour he charges "really doesn't recoup the costs," he said, especially when you take into account gas, travel time and the expense of miscellaneous items like beard glue.

"I glue my beard on no one else does that," said Wood, whose other job as a painting contractor also hasn't had much success this year. "I can eat a cookie in front of a kid and the kid won't know."

Steve Robinson, a 47-year-old Santa in St. Petersburg, Fla. whose main job is as a grocery store baker, has another suspicion about why he's gotten fewer bookings this year. □





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# Evacuations ordered as storm saturates California

By JOHN ROGERS,  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – A storm pounding California with record rain forced authorities in the San Joaquin Valley to order 2,000 residents to evacuate the farming community of McFarland due to major flooding.

An estimated 400 to 500 homes were in danger, Kern County Fire Department spokesman Sean Collins said.

A sheriff's helicopter crew was trying to locate the source of the flooding, which possibly was coming from ditches and canals that supply water to farms, Collins said. Two evacuation centers were set up, but it appeared only one would be needed.

"We cannot mandatorily evacuate anybody," Collins said. "If a person wants to stay, we cannot arrest them." Stormy weather has gripped California since late last week, triggering mostly minor flooding, mudslides, road closures and power outages. Forecasters warned of worsening conditions Tuesday and Wednesday, as more storms bore down on the state and threatened to dump another 5 to 10 inches of rain.

In McFarland, several dozen people who voluntarily evacuated gathered in the gymnasium of a community center. Restless children ran around as families waited to see if they would be able to return home.

"I woke up to sirens, I don't

know what to expect," said Andrea Castillo, 17.

Some places in McFarland had as much as three feet of water in the streets, but the town had so far contained the flooding, said Gary Farrell, general manager of the city's parks and recreation district. "We are in a holding pattern right now," he added.

Elsewhere, the California Highway Patrol reported two rain-related traffic deaths Sunday. A 3-year-old boy was ejected from an SUV that went out of control in heavy rain in the Fresno area, and a 22-year-old man was ejected from a vehicle that hydroplaned and crashed in the Bakersfield area.

A small twin-engine airplane was reported overdue Monday on a 65-mile flight from Palm Springs to Chino, and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department was to conduct a search while the Federal Aviation Administration checked with other airports to see if the pilot diverted, said FAA spokesman Ian Gregor.

The Aero Commander's trip was under visual flight rules, meaning the pilot did not plan to talk to controllers. Virtually the entire state was affected by the bad weather. On Sunday, rainfall records for the date fell, numerous traffic accidents snarled roads and trees tumbled.

Some locations in Southern California received more than 12 inches of rain, said meteorologist Jamie Meier of the National Weather

Service. It was the most rainfall in one storm event since 2005, he said.

"That will make for a pretty good wallop, especially considering how dry things have been for the last two years," Meier said.

Flash-flood watches and warnings were in effect Monday for some places, particularly mountain areas still scarred by wildfires.

Residents of La Canada Flintridge were among those keeping a wary eye on the rain after a 250-square-mile wildfire last year denuded towering slopes above communities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

More than 40 homes in the hillside city just north of Los Angeles were damaged or destroyed by a mudslide in February.

"We've just had some sprinkling rains today. Occasionally it gets a littler harder but nothing to worry about," said Del Tucker, a retired geologist who has lived in the area since homes were built there in 1962.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. crews were working to restore power to the last of about 282,000 customers that lost electricity since the storm arrived. Southern California Edison had 13,000 customers still without power Monday.

Repair crews braced for predicted winds of up to 45 mph, along with heavy rain and snow in elevated areas.

"We're getting both rain and snow. The thing that



A rock slide is seen along the Pacific Coast Highway at the Ventura County line on Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. A storm pounding California with record rain and heavy snow spawned minor flooding, mudslides, small evacuations and road closures Monday, but forecasters warned that the bad weather's worst impact may be yet to come.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

we're seeing right now, we're starting to get reports of winds, and winds are what can cause more problems than the rain itself," Edison spokesman Steve Conroy said.

Elsewhere, a 20-mile stretch of scenic Pacific Coast Highway between Malibu and Oxnard was closed to commuters after a rock and mudslide Sunday night. The California Highway Patrol said no one was hurt. PCH also was closed for a time in Orange County by a mudslide at Dana Point.

In the inland region east of Los Angeles, a mudslide closed part of Interstate 215 in San Bernardino County. Areas of the county that burned recently were under close watch, said fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez.

"We're doing preparation because the height of the rain for our county is going to be Tuesday and Wednesday," she said. "There's thousands

and thousands of sand bags, and I don't know how many tons of sand we've placed everywhere."

Eastbound Highway 71 in eastern Los Angeles County was closed because of potholes and flooding, and a number of mountain roads were closed. In Kern County, 10 people were evacuated Monday from three homes in Weldon due to flooding from a creek.

A eucalyptus tree fell onto a home in the Woodland Hills area of Los Angeles, and a 40-foot tree toppled onto an apartment building in suburban Glendale.

In the San Bernardino Mountains, a 100-foot tree fell between two businesses in downtown Big Bear but only damaged a gazebo.

"It couldn't have landed more perfectly if we'd planned it," said Tiffany Swantek, a spokeswoman for the local sheriff's station.



# US gas demand should fall for good after '06 peak



NEW YORK – The world's biggest gas-guzzling nation has limits after all.

After seven decades of mostly uninterrupted growth, U.S. gasoline demand is at the start of a long-term decline. By 2030, Americans will burn at least 20 percent less gasoline than today, experts say, even as millions of more cars clog the roads.

The country's thirst for gasoline is shrinking as cars and trucks become more fuel-efficient, the government mandates the use of more ethanol and people drive less.

"A combination of demographic change and policy change means the heady days of gasoline growing in the U.S. are over," says Daniel Yergin, chairman of IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates and author of a Pulitzer Prize-winning history

of the oil industry.

This isn't the first time in U.S. history that gasoline demand has fallen, at least temporarily. Drivers typically cut back during recessions, then hit the road again when the economy picks up. Indeed, the Great Recession was the chief reason demand fell sharply in 2008.

But this time looks different. Government and industry officials including the CEO of Exxon Mobil say U.S. gasoline demand has peaked for good. It has declined four years in a row and will not reach the 2006 level again, even when the economy fully recovers.

In fact, the ground was shifting before the recession. The 2001 terrorist attacks, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and pump prices rising to a nationwide average of \$3 a

gallon for the first time in a generation reignited public debates about the political and economic effects of oil imports and climate change. Also, the popularity of SUVs began to wane, and the government started requiring refiners to blend corn-based ethanol into every gallon of gasoline.

Americans are burning an average of 8.2 million barrels 344 million gallons of gasoline per day in 2010, a figure that excludes the ethanol blended into gasoline. That's 8 percent less than at the 2006 peak, according to government data. The decline is expected to accelerate for several reasons.

Starting with the 2012 model year, cars will have to hit a higher fuel economy target for the first time since 1990. Each carmaker's fleet must average 30.1 mpg, up from 27.5. By the 2016 model year, that number must rise to 35.5 mpg. And, starting next year, SUVs and minivans, once classified as trucks, will count toward passenger vehicle targets.

The auto industry is introducing cars that run partially or entirely on electricity, and the federal government is providing billions of dollars in subsidies to increase production and spur sales.

By 2022, the country's fuel mix must include 36 billion

gallons of ethanol and other biofuels, up from 14 billion gallons in 2011. Put another way, biofuels will account for roughly one of every four gallons sold at the pump.

Gasoline prices are forecast to stay high as developing economies in Asia and the Middle East use more oil.

There are demographic factors at work, too. Baby boomers will drive less as they age. The surge of women entering the work force and commuting in recent decades has leveled off. And the era of Americans commuting ever farther distances appears to be over. One measure of this, vehicle miles traveled per licensed driver, began to flatten in the middle of the last decade after years of sharp growth.

"People wildly underestimate the effect that all this is going to have" on gasoline demand, says Paul Sankey, an analyst at Deutsche Bank. Sankey predicts by 2030 America will use just 5.4 million barrels a day, the same as in 1969. Aaron Brady, an analyst at CERA, predicts a more modest drop, to 6.6 million barrels a day.

As a result, families will spend less on fuel, the country's dependence on foreign oil will wane and heat-trapping emissions of carbon dioxide will grow more slowly.

The shift from SUVs began in 2004 and has saved Americans \$15 billion on gasoline this year, according to the National Resources Defense Council. By 2020, improved fuel economy is expected to lower annual carbon dioxide emissions by 400 billion pounds, the equivalent of taking 32 million cars off the road.

In reality, there will be 27 million more cars on the road a total of 254 million a decade from now, according to government projections.

Environmentalists are looking at the trend with a mixture of disbelief and delight. A decade ago they thought demand would continue to grow 1-2 percent a year far into the future. "Now you look and, wow, we've actually bent the curve," says Roland Hwang, transportation director at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

There are scenarios that, while unlikely, could temporarily upend the long-term trend. If the U.S. economy booms and global oil prices fall, demand for gasoline could rise.

"Sometimes what we think is a structural shift is really just a temporary phase," says Antoine Halff, an analyst at the brokerage firm Newedge. "U.S. demand has rebounded with a vengeance before." □



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# Leadership key to ending military gay ban

By LOLITA C. BALDOR,  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — No public displays of affection. No separate bathrooms. No harassment and no special treatment. As the U.S. military begins to map out how it will implement the new edict allowing gays to serve openly, the first order of business is drafting the regulations. The rule changes under discussion won't dictate how troops feel about the change, but will strictly enforce how they act on it. From small wording tweaks and training programs to more complex questions about benefits and religion, the proposed guidelines demand that gays and lesbians be treated just like any other soldier, sailor, airman or marine. But they also leave the door open for some flexibility in room assignments or other instances when commanders believe it's needed to maintain order and discipline in their units.

The Senate voted Saturday to repeal the ban on openly gay service, following earlier action by the House, and President Barack Obama plans to sign the bill into law on Wednesday. But in letters to the troops over the weekend, the four military service chiefs warned that the ban is still in place, and will be for some time to come.

"The implementation and certification process will not happen immediately; it will take time," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said in an e-mail to airmen. "Meanwhile, the current law remains in effect.

All Air Force members should conduct themselves accordingly."

Recommendations to implement the repeal were outlined in a 67-page report last month, and now must be formed into concrete regulations. Defense officials said Monday that they still don't know how long it will take before the Pentagon completes its implementation plan and certifies the change will not damage combat readiness. Once certified, the implementation would begin 60 days later.

The report, however, provides a fairly detailed preview of what troops and the American public can expect, once the new rules are in place.

And it puts the heaviest burden on commanders who will have to walk a fine line between enforcing the updated code of military conduct and recognizing when they may need to make some concessions.

The plans call for strict and immediate action when the new rules are violated. But there is also an emphasis on educating troops who are having problems. For example, in a series of vignettes listed in the report, the first course of action is often counseling.

What if a recruiter refuses to process recruits who say they are gay? What about a sailor who requests a new sleeping area to get away from a gay roommate? Can a service member file a complaint against a chaplain who preaches against homosexuality? And can a gay or lesbian service member get leave to travel

home when their partner is ill?

In each case the recommended process is careful and deliberate. The recruiter and the sailor should be counseled about the new rules — but in both cases commanders have the authority to approve a move if they believe it's necessary in order to maintain unit stability. And, yes, chaplains can still preach what they believe.

The health and social benefits, however, are a murky area that Pentagon officials say they are trying to work through.

In some cases, service members may be able to designate a same-sex partner for benefits. In most cases, however, they are treated much like unmarried heterosexual couples. So, same-sex partners will probably not be able to share on-base housing, and commanders don't have to make allowances for same-sex couples when making duty assignments around the globe.

On Monday, Pentagon spokesman Marine Col. Dave Lapan was peppered with questions about the progress of the implementation plan and what it will say. He said he had no answers yet, as Pentagon officials are just beginning to pull the plan together.

But he also stressed that the ban on open service is still in effect, and any service member who decided to declare he or she was gay would risk enforcement of the current law — which calls for removal from service. Under a new process put in



Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine., right, speaks as Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., stands during a news conference about the passage of the Don't Ask Don't Tell bill during an unusual Saturday session on Capitol Hill in Washington Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010. In a landmark for gay rights, the U.S. Senate on Saturday voted to let gays serve openly in the military, giving President Barack Obama the chance to fulfill a campaign promise and repeal the 17-year policy known as 'don't ask, don't tell.'

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

place by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, any discharges under the so-called don't ask, don't tell law now have to be approved by the service secretaries.

Gates has said the military will not drag out the implementation process, but it will move carefully and deliberately.

A new study by the Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said only three steps are needed to assure a smooth and quick transition: an executive order suspending all gay

discharges, a few weeks to put new regulations in place and immediate certification to Congress that the new law will work. And it says that the military often implements new policies as it begins training, rather than waiting for the training to be finished. Aaron Belkin, center director, said it took just 40 days to train the force when the don't ask, don't tell policy was implemented under President Bill Clinton in 1993-94. The Pentagon, Belkin said, can train the entire force rapidly, even those in combat zones. □

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# Computer monitor causes scare at Newark airport



NEWARK, N.J. — A computer baggage caused a security monitor that was checked as scare Monday morning at

Newark Liberty International Airport, prompting officials to shut down part of a terminal for about an hour as a precaution. The Transportation Security Administration detected the suspicious package at 6:17 a.m. during screening of checked baggage in Terminal A, which is home to American Airlines at the airport, TSA spokesman James Fotenos said. "To ensure the safety of the traveling public, the nearby security checkpoint was temporarily closed," Fotenos said.

Ron Marsico, a spokesman

for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, said one security checkpoint in Terminal A was shut down, as was the ground floor area where the bag was being screened. The rest of the terminal operated normally, he said. A police bomb squad cleared the monitor and normal operations resumed at 8:16 a.m. Computer monitors normally emit small amounts of radiation and there was never any danger, FBI agent Bryan Travers said.

The monitor was being shipped

to the same destination as its owner, who was already in flight, Travers said.

It wasn't immediately known how many flights were delayed by the closure. Marsico said some flights may have been moved to different gates.

Several travelers arriving on flights from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Charlotte, N.C., and Halifax, Nova Scotia shortly after the checkpoint was reopened said their flights arrived on time or close to it, and that no announcements were made about the closure. □

## Author of pedophilia guide to face charges in Fla.

PUEBLO, Colo. — A Colorado man who wrote a how-to guide for pedophiles is headed to Florida to face obscenity charges.

Phillip R. Greaves of Pueblo, Colo. waived his right to fight extradition Monday after he was arrested at his home on a warrant that charges him with violating Florida's obscenity law.

Sheriff Grady Judd in Polk County, Fla., said his office was able to arrest Greaves because he sold and mailed his book, "The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure: a Child-lover's Code of Conduct," directly to undercover Polk deputies. Judd says Greaves even signed the book.

The book was yanked from Amazon.com last month after it generated online outrage.

Judd is known throughout Florida as a crusader against child predators.

Officials filed an obscenity charge Monday against the author of a self-published how-to guide for pedophiles that was yanked from Amazon.com last month after it generated online outrage.

Colorado authorities arrested Philip Ray Greaves II at his home in Colorado on a warrant that charges him with violating Florida's obscenity law.

Sheriff Grady Judd in Florida said his office was able to arrest Greaves because he sold and mailed his book, "The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure: a Child-lover's Code of Conduct," directly to undercover Polk deputies. Judd says Greaves even signed the book.

"He very proudly sold us his personal copy," Judd told the Associated Press. "I was outraged by the content. It was clearly a manifesto on how to sexually batter children.

You just can't believe how absolutely disgusting it was."

Laurie Shorter, spokeswoman for the Pueblo County Sheriff's Department, said Greaves would be held in the county jail, where he was being booked Monday morning. It was unclear if he had an attorney. Judd said Greaves could be in Florida as early as Monday night.

"If he will waive extradition, it's my goal for him to

eat processed turkey on Christmas Day in the Polk County Jail," Judd said.

Judd, who keeps a Bible on his desk, is known throughout Florida as a crusader against child predators. In past interviews, he said his campaign against child porn started when he was a vice officer and comes from his fervent commitment to protect children.

To him, that commitment includes crossing state lines: Greaves may have never set foot in Polk County, which is a melange of orange groves, phosphate mines, modest towns and a half-million people between Tampa and Orlando.

Denver attorney David Lane, who has handled several high-profile First Amendment cases, said Florida could have a hard time extraditing Greaves. He is entitled to a hearing where he can argue he should not be sent there to face charges.

"The main question is whether what he's accused of in Florida would be a crime in Colorado," Lane said. "Obviously, it's not a crime in Colorado because he hasn't been arrested here."

Writs of extradition the paperwork necessary to send somebody to another state are routinely signed by Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, a former Denver district attorney. But Lane, who is not affiliated with this case, said it involves a different set of issues.

"Most of other extradition cases present clear-cut cases, the defendant was dealing drugs in that other state or some other crime that is also illegal here," Lane said. Ritter's spokesman, Evan Dreyer, did not immediately return a message.

Other legal experts also question whether Greaves' right to free speech would come into play if there's a trial. If the government is willing to prohibit this book from being shipped and sold in Florida, they ask, what would prevent officials from prosecuting a bookseller who ships and sells Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita," a novel about a pedophile?

"As bad as this book may be, the charge opens a very big Pandora's box," said Dennis J. Kenney, a former police officer in Polk County and a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. "The



charge sounds to me like a significant overreach."

Greaves has no criminal record, but his self-published book of advice on how to make sexual encounters with children safe caused a flap when it showed up on Amazon in November. The book was later removed from the site.

Judd said he was incensed when he heard about the book and that no one had arrested Greaves for selling it.

"What's wrong with a society that has gotten to the point that we can't arrest child pornographers and child molesters who write a book about how to rape a child?" Judd said.

Detectives worked with the Polk County State Attorney to compile a warrant, which was then signed by a county judge, Judd said.

Florida's obscenity law a third-degree felony prohibits the "distribution of obscene material depicting minors engaged in conduct harmful to minors."

The book, Judd said, included first-person descriptions of sexual encounters, purportedly written from a child's point of view.

Greaves argues in the book that pedophiles are misunderstood, as the word literally means to love a child. He adds that it is only a crime to act on sexual impulses toward children, and offers advice that purportedly allows pedophiles to abide by the law. □





## At Cool Casino Progressive Jackpot Hit by Visitor from Norway



PALM BEACH – The Players Club at Cool Casino had the distinct pleasure to award visitor Frode Een Win, from Norway, \$6,422.26, as he played one of the casino's \$1 slot machines.

Een Win, escaping the cold in his Northern country, found warmth and wealth in Aruba, playing at Cool Casino, doing what his name indicates, Een Win, won.

The casino is getting ready for its Sunday December 26th, Christmas Blackjack Tournament, at 5:30 p.m., sharing the generous \$10,000 cash purse among winners.

The Christmas Blackjack Tournament at Cool Casino will deliver the excitement of players competing against other players instead of just playing against the house.

The inscription for \$100 started on December 1st and players will be given the option to re-buy for \$50. Gaming will start at 5:30pm on Boxing Day, and will conclude when the \$10,000 are won. □

## Aruba Fofoti Tours Debuts First of Its Kind Luxury Buses



ORANJESTAD - Fofoti Tours and Transfers rolls out the first five luxury buses, along with a menu of new and unique island tours. Fofoti Tours & Transfers offers a wide range of services from personalized tours and excursions to all other transfer and transportation services.

The core value of this young and dynamic company revolves around tailoring products and services based on the needs of both the local and international market.

“Our name pays tribute to one of Aruba's most renowned landmarks, highlighting

and promoting one of Aruba's many treasures, the Fofoti Tree” boasts the proud Director, Ms. Sharlise Croes. “Brand new fully air-conditioned buses offer modern audio visual technology and a seating capacity of 50 passengers, making sure our clients enjoy the view in style and comfort.” Additional product offerings include, fun filled and colorful open busses or smaller vehicles, based on group size. Whether a point to point transfer or a full blown island tour stopping at the

best sights and attractions that the island has to offer, Fofoti can make it happen in Style. With a warm and friendly staff to welcome you or your (VIP) guests to experience Aruba and its greatest assets, landmarks, unique culture and history.

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Cruise visitors can benefit from a variety of tailored island tours showcasing Aruba's best sights, culture, art, nature & beaches to our fabulous shopping tours with or without lunch

Tours include, Sight Seeing Tours, Adventurous Tours, Beach Tours, Night Tours, Personalized & Tailored Tours, Island Chic Tours and of course, Private Tours Transfer Services include, Round trip Airport Transfers by our deluxe air-conditioning buses or by our open and colorful fun buses, Point to Point Group Transfers, VIP Transfers, Shuttle Services, or Private/Personalized Transfers. □





# Carambola Restaurant hosts first event



EAGLE BEACH -Recently the staff and management of the new Carambola Restaurant opened the doors for their debut event to host the staff of the Paradise Beach Villas' holiday party and dinner. While the restaurant will officially open this weekend, the group from Paradise

Beach Villas was the first to experience the international fusion culinaria on the menu which highlights Caribbean flavors intriguingly melded with international cuisine. A large selection of fresh fish and premium steaks and chops are accompanied by innovative appetizers and salads, as well as decadent



dessert offerings. Located in Paradise Beach Villas adjacent to La Cabana on Eagle Beach, Carambola will be open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as private parties in the upstairs banquet room. The penthouse terrace of Paradise Beach Villas will also be available for al fresco receptions and events, and boasts incomparable views of pristine Eagle Beach. □





# Mr. Joseph Polak Kruel honored at the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino



PALM BEACH - Recently with honorary titles created by at the Marriott Resort, the Ministry of Tourism as a vacationers were presented token of appreciation to guest



visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority

Associate Ricardo Croes at the Marriott Resort, where they call their home away from home. Mr. Joseph Polak Kruel was honored as an distinguished visitor after coming to Aruba for more then 10 years. Mrs. Polak coordinated a special private party at La Vista Restaurant at the Marriott Resort and invited

all her friends in Aruba. A fine cake was made specially for this occasion from the Marriott Resort staff. An old friend Mr AntonioLeo was also invited to the party.

Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with Joseph & Carolyn Polak and also staff and friends from the Marriott Resort. □

## Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood

can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

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*At El Gaucho*

# Elementary School Teachers Get into the Holiday Spirit



ORANJESTAD -- El Gaucho Argentine Grill wined and dined some staff members of Skol Nos Paraiso, this week. The elementary school in Paradera is preparing for the holidays and

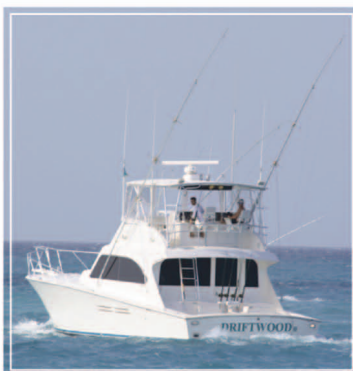
an evening of delicious food in great company helped fuel the teachers' energy for the days to come. Pictured here, the relaxed faculty, in celebration mode. □



## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

### Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

### Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day

\$720- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



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### Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

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Tel: (297) 583 2515

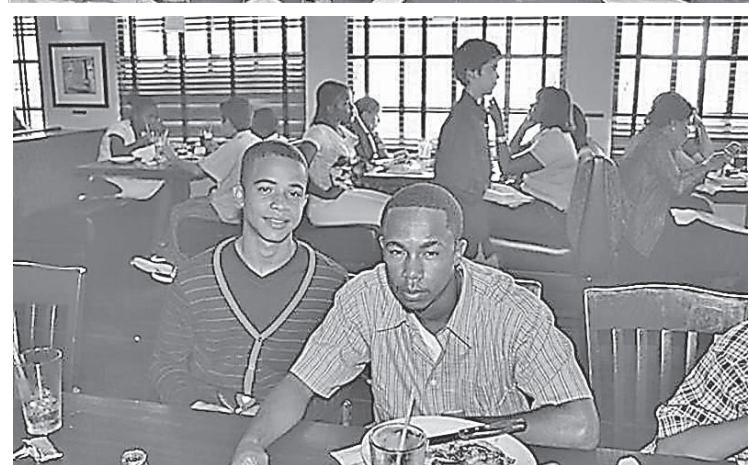
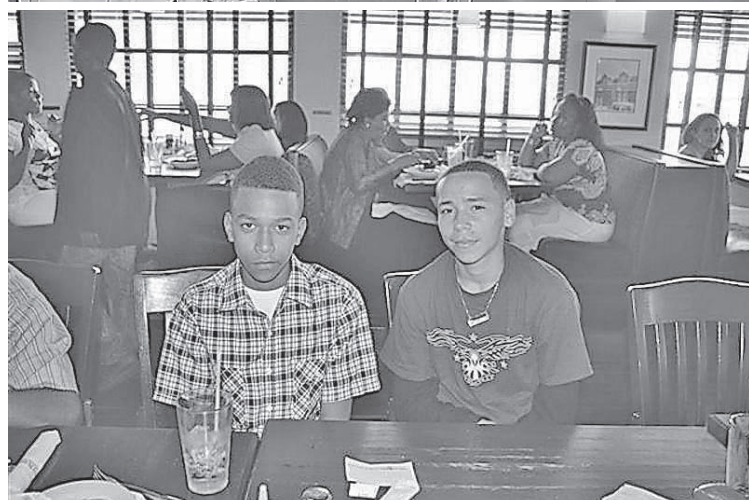
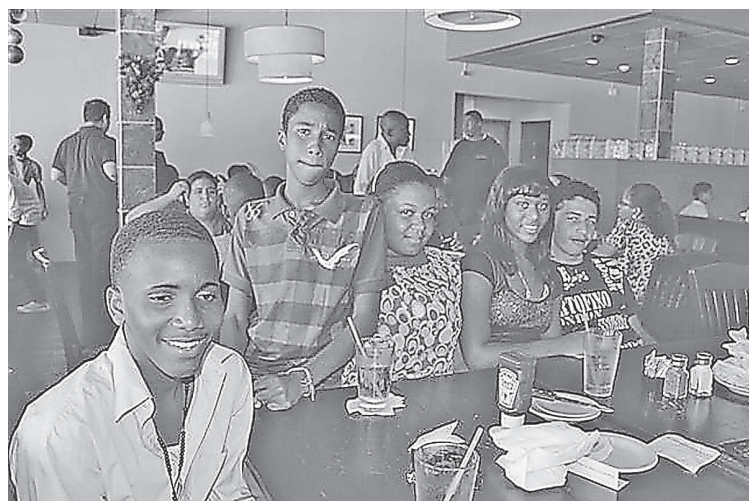
[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

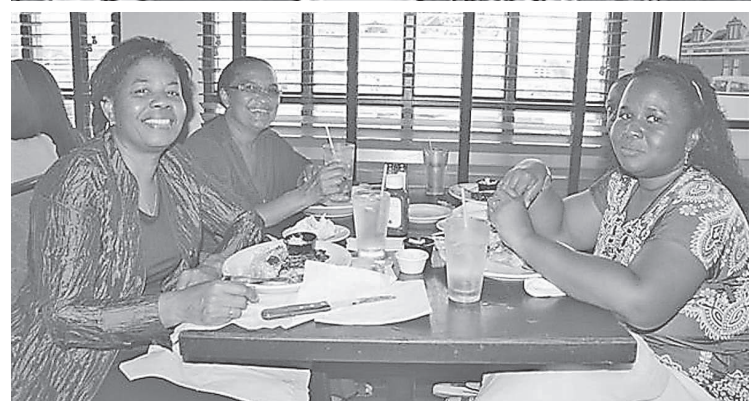
**Read ARUBA TODAY every day**



# John Wesley School students enjoy holiday feast at Tony Roma's



PALM BEACH – On Friday December 10th, a group of students and their teachers from the John Wesley School got together to celebrate the holidays and completion of their first term at the school. Some 200 students enjoyed Tony Roma's hospitality and feasted on those famous ribs. Tony Roma's is a popular choice for parties and can accommodate groups of all sizes. Large groups can even pre-arrange menus at special prices for their event or order directly off the menu, choosing from ribs, chicken, shrimp, fresh fish, steaks, salads, sandwiches, and burgers. something for everyone! □







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Sandra Loefstop-Duarte  
[aviso@bondia.com](mailto:aviso@bondia.com)  
[bondia.aruba@gmail.com](mailto:bondia.aruba@gmail.com)

**Managing Director**  
John A. Chemaly Jr.

**Caribbean Speed Printing N.V.**  
Westraat #22  
Oranjestad, Aruba  
Tel: (297) 582-7800  
Fax: 582-7044

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## HUMAN HINTS

# Fundamentals of the Human Game

The world of physical matter is an illusion. It literally does not exist. Physics has shown that matter is made of empty space. It exists only to the extent that we give it Power over our emotions.

The illusion of the physical world is created by our expanded selves, specifically for us, the limited players in the game. Everything in our lives is absolutely perfect for each of us in every moment, otherwise it wouldn't be here. If you are aware of it, your expanded self wrote it into the story of your life.

The expanded self writes the hologram, then holds together the hologram by giving it energy.

We, as the players in the game, can consciously reclaim that power from the hologram. Strong emotion shows where the power is concentrated. Consciously reclaim your power from areas of your life that trigger strong emotion, and you tap into the biggest concentrations of power.

Details of the story line don't matter. What matters is that we feel specific emotion, designed exactly for us in exactly every moment. The illusion is designed to incite specific emotions, and those emotions are the important thing to focus on. That is where your personal power is stored.

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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## Letter to the Editor:

As the Attorney for Alex Mathew and Michael Levenstone, I Attorney John F. M. Zara am compelled to answer some of the public's unanswered questions pertaining to the Foxy Lady case.

First and foremost, I would like to make it clear that my clients are innocent of the charges brought against them by the public prosecutors office. As their Attorney I can promise you the charges against my clients are senseless and baseless. It is my clients sincere belief that this investigation is driven by personal vendetta's and consequently resulting from his past run-ins with the Police, Judges, and Prosecutors here in Aruba. After reviewing the so-called evidence in this case, I agree that there's definitely more then meets the eye behind my client's detention and the charges against them.

The countless charges including Human Trafficking that were brought forth last Friday (December 17th) by the Public Prosecutors office are utterly absurd and justified by pure fictitious accusations, made by uncredible witnesses. I believe that the countless charges mentioned last Friday were stated by the prosecutor's office simply as a means to tarnish my client's image with the public and to justify their pre-longed detention and repeated Proforma hearings. The mentioning of so many baseless charges in a hearing such as last Friday's, is a tactic that I've seen done many times by this office simply as a means to reach a conviction; whereas the prosecution will charge the defendants with additional charges, just so in the end at least one charge sticks and

a conviction of some sort is then reached.

This system ladies and gentlemen is NOT justice, nor is it fair.

Instead it is a system designed to keep the innocent in jail thru a long list of bogus charges put on paper by the prosecutor's office.

What I have not seen however in all my years as an Attorney until now, is a Public Prosecutor creating false victims to put in a citation against a defendant, and then actually having this allowed by a Judge.

No one in their right mind can say it is fair or just to have a prosecutor submit a legal document with names of so-called victims that either does not exist or that have actually declared in my clients favor.

During Friday's hearing this situation was discussed at length, as a result of the public prosecutor submitting a long list of supposed victims that he himself admitted in court have either never given a declaration claiming any sort of abuse or names of so called victims whom are actually declaring in my clients favor. This admittedly false citation then went on to be admitted and used in courts to justify my client's detention.

Further the OM is well aware that the women of Foxy Lady were not being exploited, as every single female working at the club knew full well the details of their contract and their work here in Aruba and have years of experience in the business. Also the entire island of Aruba is well aware that the Foxy Lady was the one and only bar in San Nicolas that did NOT offer any sort of prostitution, which is further proof that the Public Prosecutor's office

is knowingly making false accusations against my clients, as a means to justify their detention at KIA for an undecided amount of time. After witnessing this and other violations of my client's rights first hand, I think it's safe for anyone to say that games are most definitely being played against my clients.

As this is Aruba's 1st major human trafficking case and the involvement of an American citizen in this case, plus given the disappearance of the American girl Natalee Holloway's unsolved disappearance on the island, naturally the national and international press are very interested in this case.

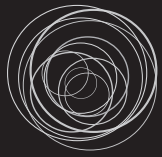
Unfortunately however, the media scrutiny does not promise to have a positive light on Aruba given the nature of the accusations and the despicable practices of this justice department against an American citizen once again in this case. As my client Alex Mathew once stated to me "The same prosecutor's office and Justices whom once moved heaven and earth to acquit one of their own, in the Joran Vander Sloot case, are now the same ones moving heaven and earth to convict them".

The government and the Minister of justice have been informed of the injustice happening against my clients and it is my sincere hope that they do choose to get involved so that the entire Aruban community won't once again have to suffer for this department's personal gains.

Informing all concerned accordingly in the name of my client, Mr. Alex Mathew and Mr. Michael Levenstone I remain,

mr. John F.M. Zara  
Attorney at Law





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# Anger rises as travel havoc snarls Britain, Europe

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Frustrated travelers in Europe expressed fury Monday at transportation officials' inability to clear runways and high-speed train tracks after a snowstorm that has wreaked holiday travel chaos and spawned fears many people won't get home for Christmas.

More than 48 hours after the last heavy snowfall, English authorities continued to struggle to get rid of buildups of snow and ice. The continent's worst bottleneck was London's Heathrow Airport, where thousands of travelers were stranded overnight as flight cancellations increased even as other major European airports resumed normal operations after several days of weather delays. London Mayor Boris Johnson summed up the exasperation as Britain suffered another day of travel setbacks. "It can't be beyond the wit of man surely to find the shovels, the diggers, the

snowplows or whatever it takes to clear the snow out from under the planes, to get the planes moving and to have more than one runway going," he said as British Airways canceled its Monday short-haul schedule from Heathrow. Airport operator BAA announced that flights would be greatly reduced at Heathrow until at least 6 a.m. Wednesday, with only a maximum one-third of its scheduled flights allowed to operate. "Passengers should anticipate further delays and cancellations in the following days and potentially beyond Christmas Day," BAA said in a statement. It advised passengers to postpone their trips if possible. BAA said the mandated flight restrictions should provide airlines with more "clarity" for planning purposes. The government has allowed nighttime operations to help clear the backlog, BAA said. BAA said a five-inch snowfall in one hour Saturday left Heathrow blanketed in



Passengers sleep as they wait for their flight at Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport in London, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. Snow and freezing temperatures continued to cause holiday travel chaos for road, rail and air passengers in Britain and much of Europe Monday, raising fears that many will not get home in time for Christmas.

Associated Press

## 12 men arrested in suspected United Kingdom terrorism plot

PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — In the biggest anti-terrorist sweep in Britain in nearly two years, police on Monday arrested a dozen men accused of plotting a large-scale terror attack on targets inside the United Kingdom.

The suspects, who ranged in age from 17 to 28, had been under surveillance for weeks and were believed to have links to Pakistan and Bangladesh, security officials said.

The arrests come amid growing concerns in Europe over terrorism following a suicide bombing in Sweden and reported threats of a terror attack on a European city modeled on the deadly shooting spree in Mumbai, India.

Police swooped in before dawn Monday in

coordinated raids on houses in four cities — London, the Welsh city of Cardiff and the English cities of Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent. The officers were unarmed, suggesting any planned attack was not imminent.

The raid, a joint operation by Britain's domestic spy agency MI5 and police, was the largest since April 2009, when 12 men were detained over an alleged al-Qaida bomb plot in the northern city of Manchester.

Counterterrorism officials declined to give more details of the latest alleged plot, saying only that the men had been under surveillance for several weeks. No details were given as to whether explosives or arms were found, and searches were under way in the homes where the arrests took place. □

snow, and subsequent swings in temperature led to an extensive ice buildup around aircraft parked on the ground. BAA said "every available" staff member and several hundred additional contractors are trying to get the airport

moving again. Air traffic control agency Eurocontrol said Monday on its website that the situation at Heathrow had become "chaotic." Embarrassed British officials promised an inquiry into the poor performance of

the transport network, with Transport Secretary Philip Hammond planning to address Parliament about the failures, which included major delays on the Eurostar rail service linking England to France and Belgium. □



A view of New Scotland Yard, the headquarters building of the Metropolitan Police, with its sign in London, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. British police on Monday arrested a dozen men suspected of plotting a large-scale terror attack — the biggest anti-terrorist sweep since April 2009, when 12 men were detained over an alleged al-Qaida bomb plot in the northern city of Manchester. The men were arrested in London, the Welsh city of Cardiff and the English cities of Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent.

Associated Press



# Iraqi Prime Minister announces new Cabinet



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, right, speaks at a press conference with Osama al-Nujaifi, left, the elected parliament speaker in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. Iraq's parliament speaker says Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has submitted a list of his new Cabinet and is ready to seat a government more than nine months after inconclusive elections.

**QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA**

**Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki submitted his new Cabinet on Monday, clearing a hurdle to seating a government more than nine months after national elections even though serious disputes with one of his key allies remained.

Nearly one-third of the nominees were only acting ministers, an attempt to buy

*Associated Press*

time to work out disagreements over some of the posts with the hardline Shiite faction loyal to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Without the Sadrists, al-Maliki would not have had enough support to try to build the government in the first place.

Parliament was expected to vote on the list of 42 ministers and other top government posts as early as Tuesday, according to Speaker Osama

al-Nujaifi, a member of the Sunni-backed Iraqiya alliance that won the most seats in the March 7 election and, until this month, bitterly fought to prevent al-Maliki from keeping his job.

Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with al-Maliki at a joint news conference Monday night, al-Nujaifi said the prime minister had met his obligation to designate Iraq's new leadership by the constitutional deadline of Saturday.

"I am very happy today," al-Maliki told reporters. "What has happened today is new evidence that we, as Iraqis, cannot continue our differences forever."

Although 13 of the posts were given to acting ministers, al-Nujaifi's endorsement suggested that Iraqiya was on board. Officials said all but three of those posts will be filled with permanent candidates by Saturday.

The remaining posts — the all-important defense, interior and national security ministries that control Iraq's security forces — would be

filled within a month to give lawmakers more time to ensure they are run by politically independent figures, officials said. That did not sit well with the Sadrists, who initially said they were suspicious that al-Maliki would fill those three jobs with their enemies.

The Sadrist alliance with al-Maliki always has been tenuous and was brokered only this fall by Iran. The two sides had been enemies since 2008, when the prime minister launched an offensive crushing al-Sadr's militia in Baghdad's Sadr City district and the southern city of Basra. "We had information that al-Maliki was trying to appoint a person who is hostile to the Sadrists," Sadrist lawmaker Amir al-Kinani said late Monday. "We have supporters and we do not want our people to be provoked."

But al-Kinani said those worries were assuaged by the night's end: "This issue has been settled."

Other lawmakers said they, too, were irritated that al-Maliki did not present a Cabinet with names of candidates for all 42

posts. Al-Maliki will be acting minister for the three security positions until the candidates are designated.

"An agreement should be reached on all security posts," said Mahmoud Othman, an independent Kurdish politician. "Why should they remain open and with the prime minister for an unspecified period of time?"

Al-Maliki, who has served as prime minister since May 2006, said the delays would ensure all parties are fairly represented in the government. "The formation of national unity government in Iraq is a difficult and hard task because we need to find place in the government for all those who participated and won in the elections," al-Maliki said, speaking just hours after lawmakers gloomily predicted further delays.

Until very recently, it was Iraqiya that was the biggest thorn in al-Maliki's side. Iraqiya just this month dropped its long-standing demand that its leader, Ayad Allawi, should have the first shot at forming a government. □

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In this image made from Associated Press Television News video, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, left, is greeted by Kim Yong Dae, vice president of Presidium of Supreme People's Assembly, before their meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. Richardson, a frequent unofficial envoy to North Korea and former U.S. ambassador to the U.N., is on a four-day visit to Pyongyang.

*Associated Press*

## NKOREA

*Continued from Front Page*

Monday's drills came nearly a month after the North shelled Yeonpyeong Island, a tiny enclave of fishing communities and military bases about seven miles from North Korean shores, in response to an earlier round of South Korean live-fire maneuvers.

The North Korean artillery barrage killed two marines and two construction workers in its first attack targeting civilian areas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

That clash sent tensions soaring between the two countries — which are still technically at war.

They've remained in a tense standoff since the Nov. 23

attack, and an emergency meeting of U.N. diplomats in New York on Sunday failed to find any solution to the crisis. But Monday brought some of the first positive signs in weeks, as a high-profile American governor announced what he said were two nuclear concessions from the North.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a frequent unofficial envoy to North Korea and former U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said that during his visit the North agreed to let U.N. atomic inspectors visit its main nuclear complex to make sure it's not producing enriched uranium for a nuclear bomb, according to a statement from his office.

The North expelled U.N. inspectors last year, and last month showed a visiting American scientist a new, highly advanced uranium enrichment facility that could give it a second way to make atomic bombs, in addition to its plutonium program. □



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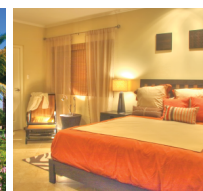


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# Mexican presidential ex-candidate freed by kidnappers

**MARK STEVENSON**

**Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A former Mexican presidential candidate was freed Monday seven months after his kidnapping, telling reporters outside his Mexico City home that he is well and forgives his captors.

Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, a top Mexican political power broker who ran unsuccessfully for president in 1994, gave no details about his abductors in what was the highest-profile and most brazen kidnapping in Mexico's recent history.

"As far as the kidnappers are concerned, as a man of faith I have forgiven (them)," he said, looking fit as he stood in a gray sweatshirt and pants outside his luxurious Mexico City home. "As a citizen, I think that the authorities have a task to do, but without abuses."

In a statement, President Felipe Calderon welcomed the freeing of Fernandez de Cevallos, a leading member of Calderon's conservative National Action Party, and pledged that prosecutors were working to detain the kidnappers.

The national party, known as PAN, issued a statement calling the seven-month kidnapping "a period of anguish and worry," and called on the government to investigate and punish those responsible "with the ultimate consequences." Fernandez de Cevallos had been missing since May, when his vehicle was found near his ranch in the central state of Queretaro. His abduction caught the country by surprise: Kidnappers are known to target the rich and powerful, but seldom power brokers of his level.

Throughout the ordeal, photographs of the ex-candidate in captivity were sent to the Mexican news media, along with messages purportedly from him and his captors. Local news media reported in October that the family paid more

than \$20 million in ransom, though the family never confirmed that.

His imminent release was first announced by a previously unknown leftist group in statements posted on a blog Friday. Rebel groups kidnapped Mexican politicians and businessmen in the 1970s, both to get operating money and make a political point.

The statements by the Network for Global Transformation described Fernandez de Cevallos as a "corrupt, arrogant" influence-broker and said his kidnapping was "a blow against the plutocracy" and "an act of reparation."

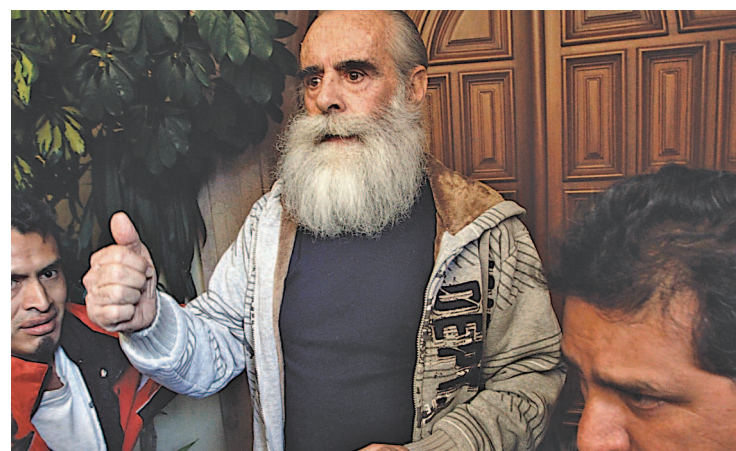
In his brief comments to reporters, however, the politician did not identify his captors or their motives. Nor did he comment on whether any ransom had been paid.

"First I have to tell you that I thank God and the virgin for the help they gave me minute by minute during the past seven months," he said. "I'm strong and my life will continue the same."

The bearded, cigar-chomping candidate known as "El Jefe Diego," or "Diego the Boss," emerged from relative obscurity during Mexico's first televised debate by presidential candidates in 1994, striking a chord with the middle class with his calls to topple the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which had held power since 1929.

He finished second to PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo that year, but his party finally won the presidency six years later when Vicente Fox was elected.

Fernandez de Cevallos' car was found with some belongings in it near his ranch the morning of May 15. A night watchman told police he was supposed to have arrived at his ranch in the town of Pedro Escobedo the night before and never made it. □



Former Mexican presidential candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos gestures as he speaks to the press outside his home in Mexico City, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. Fernandez de Cevallos, who had been missing since May 15, said that he is well, he thanks God and he has forgiven his kidnappers.

*Associated Press*



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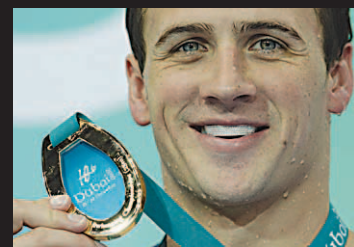
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# Lochte look ahead: 8-medal threat for London

United States' Ryan Lochte shows off his gold medal for the Men's 200m backstroke final at the FINA Short Course Swimming World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. Lochte won a total of six gold during the event.

Associated Press.  
Page B8



## SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, December 21, 2010

### BEAR HUNTING

*Bruins' record faces extinction*

In this photo taken Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma reacts during an NCAA women's college basketball game at Storrs, Conn. UConn defeated Marquette 79-47 to win their 87th straight game.

Associated Press  
Page B7

## Coach K ties Smith, No. 1 Duke beats Elon 98-72

By AARON BEARD  
AP Basketball Writer

DURHAM, N.C. — Kyle Singler scored 24 points to help No. 1 Duke beat Elon 98-72 on Monday night, moving coach Mike Krzyzewski into a tie for second place on the all-time wins list.

Nolan Smith added 22 points as the Blue Devils (11-0) gave their Hall of Fame coach his 879th win in 36 seasons at Duke and Army.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski speaks with an official during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Elon in Durham, N.C., Monday, Dec. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B7



Minnesota Vikings  
quarterback Brett Favre  
throws before an NFL football  
game against the Chicago  
Bears Monday, Dec. 20, 2010,  
in Minneapolis. The game is  
being played at the University  
of Minnesota's TCF Bank  
Stadium because of damage to  
the Metrodome roof.

Associated Press

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer  
MINNEAPOLIS — Brett  
Favre made a surprise start in  
snowy TCF Bank Stadium on  
Monday night, throwing a 23-  
yard touchdown pass to Percy

### At press time: Favre starts, Bears take early lead

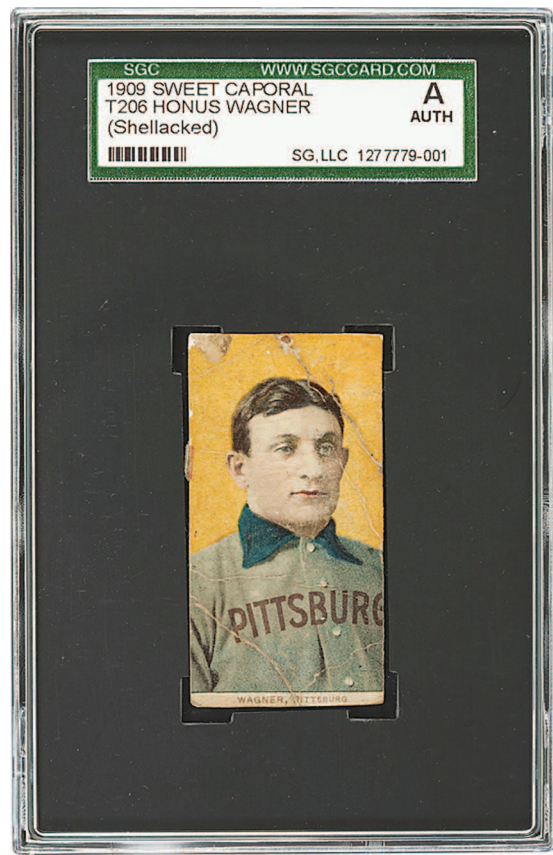
Harvin before Jay Cutler and the Chicago Bears responded to take a 10-7 lead after one quarter.

Cutler threw a 67-yard TD pass to Johnny Knox and Robbie Gould kicked a 29-yard field goal after Favre's 19th interception of the season. The Bears can clinch the NFC North with a victory. Favre, playing with a sprained throwing shoulder, was 4 for 5 for 51 yards in the first quarter for the Vikings, who were playing without star running back Adrian Peterson and guard Steve Hutchinson because of injuries.

Continued on Next Page



# Nuns' Honus Wagner card goes to new buyer



This undated photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows a rare century-old T206 Honus Wagner baseball card. A new buyer has emerged for the rare Honus Wagner baseball card that was bequeathed to an order of Roman Catholic nuns in Baltimore.

Associated Press

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — It's been a blessed year for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who catapulted to prominence when they put a rare Honus Wagner baseball card up for auction to support their charitable mission.

Problem was, the winning bidder never paid up.

On Monday, the Baltimore-based order of Roman Catholic nuns got their \$220,000 — the original bid — but have a different collector to thank.

Dr. Nicholas DePace, a Philadelphia cardiologist, wired them the money and owns the card. He's been collecting sports memorabilia for 30 years, and he's a longtime client of Dallas-based Heritage Auctions. A staff member at the auction house reached out to him in early December after the winning bidder missed a 30-day deadline to purchase the card, and DePace agreed immediately to buy it. "God bless him," said Sister Virginia Muller, the former treasurer of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who was entrusted with the card.

The winning bidder was Doug Walton of Knoxville, Tennessee, who owns seven sports card stores in the Southeast. He told The AP at the time that he was willing to overpay for the card because of the story behind it and said he was the highest bidder by \$45,000.

Walton did not return a message left on his cell phone Monday. Greg Rohan, president of Heritage Auctions, said the auction house had been unable to reach Walton.

"Once in a blue moon, every auction company has a strange situation like this," Rohan said. "It doesn't happen very often, but you have to be prepared for it." The Wagner card, produced as part of the T206 series between 1909 and 1911, is the most sought-after baseball card in history. About 60 are known to exist, and one in near-perfect condition sold in 2007 for \$2.8 million, the highest price ever for a baseball card.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame inherited their card from the brother of a deceased nun after he died earlier this year. It had been in the man's possession since 1936 and was unknown to the sports memorabilia

marketplace. It's in poor condition, but collectors prize any Wagner card.

The American Tobacco Company ended production of the card shortly after it began. According to sports historians, Wagner was either upset about his image being used to promote tobacco products or the shortstop simply thought he wasn't being paid enough.

"The Flying Dutchman," played for played for 21 seasons, 18 of them with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He compiled a .328 career batting average and was one of the five original inductees into baseball's Hall of Fame. DePace's vast memorabilia collection includes game-worn uniforms of Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson and Wilt Chamberlain and a game ball from the 1958 NFL championship game between the Baltimore Colts and New York Giants, known as "The Greatest Game Ever Played."

He plans to open a nonprofit museum next year in Collingswood, New Jersey, a Philadelphia suburb, to showcase his holdings, and will display the card there. □

## FAVRE STARTS

Continued from Page B1

Julius Peppers had an interception for the Bears.

The game was played at the University of Minnesota's outdoor stadium after the Metrodome's roof collapsed last week.

Favre was ruled out for the game on Saturday, with all signs pointing to rookie Joe Webb making his first career start. But he woke up on Monday morning and told team athletic trainers and staff that his right shoulder felt much better.

Favre threw about 15 passes before the game and was cleared to play, a stunning development in a stunning season for the Vikings. Just this year, Randy Moss returned to Minnesota and departed again in less than a month, coach Brad Childress was fired midseason and the Metrodome's roof collapsed last weekend, rendering the team homeless.

Some of Favre's best work has come in the cold and on Monday night, and he got the Vikings off to a fast start in this one. They rode Toby Gerhart into Bears territory before Favre completed a swing pass

to Harvin in the flat. Harvin made two defenders miss on the slick field and raced to the end zone for a 7-0 lead.

Favre leaped onto guard Ryan Cook's back in the end zone to celebrate, the most emotion he's shown in what has been a difficult year for the quarterback and the team. It was downhill from there, though. Henry Melton tipped Favre's pass at the line of scrimmage and Peppers picked it off to set up Gould's field goal.

The Bears faced a first-and-30 on the next possession, but Knox got behind Lito Sheppard and safety Madiou Williams took a bad angle on the pass, which fell into Knox's arms for a 10-7 lead. Favre started the night tied for third in the NFL with 18 interceptions and 30th with a 69.6 quarterback rating. He also has been the subject of an NFL investigation for allegedly sending inappropriate messages to a gameday hostess when both worked for the New York Jets in 2008.

He's dealt with numerous injuries through the season and had his cherished NFL record for consecutive starts

streak snapped at 297 last week. Not coincidentally, the Vikings have been eliminated from playoff contention after starting the season with Super Bowl aspirations.

He found the perfect setting to make his surprise return — in the snow, on Monday night. Snow started following in the metro area on Monday afternoon and didn't let up as game time approached. The stiff wind turned TCF Bank Stadium into a snow globe, swirling the white flakes around in the horseshoe-shaped stadium in what made for a throwback scene.

The snow relented by game time, but stadium personnel feverishly worked to keep the field clear right up until kickoff.

The Vikings hadn't played an outdoor game in Minnesota since a 10-6 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs at Metropolitan Stadium on Dec. 20, 1981.

The Vikings used to be famous for their toughness and ability to play through wintery conditions. Iconic coach Bud Grant led the "Purple People Eaters" to four Super Bowl appearances in the 1960s and '70s, refusing to allow heaters on the home sidelines to keep



The Minnesota Vikings take the field before the first half an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, in Minneapolis. The game is being played at the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium because of damage to the Metrodome roof.

Associated Press

Fran Tarkenton and the rest of the team warm.

The Vikings celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sunday by holding a gala for the 50 greatest players in franchise history. Most of them, including the famed defensive line of Jim Marshall, Alan Page, Gary Larsen and Carl Eller, stuck around for the game to be honored at halftime.

A generation of Vikings fans only know those days thanks

to the grainy footage of NFL Films. The newest purple backers have grown up in the comfortable confines of the Metrodome, where Moss, Cris Carter and the modern-day Vikings turned up the heat under the big white roof.

The billowy top came crashing down last Sunday under the weight of one of the biggest snowstorms the city has ever seen, a fitting metaphor for this disaster of a football season in Minnesota. □



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# WR Owens has knee surgery, out for season

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Terrell Owens decided to have knee surgery Monday, ending his revival season with the Cincinnati Bengals.

The receiver tore cartilage in his left knee two weeks ago, but kept playing. He aggravated the injury while making a cut on the opening series of a 19-17 win over Cleveland on Sunday, forcing him to hobble off the field.

Owens flew to Birmingham, Ala., on Monday and was examined by Dr. James Andrews. The 37-year-old Owens was scheduled for surgery later in the day.

He tweeted a photo of himself in a hospital gown getting ready for the operation late Monday afternoon.

"BIG THANKS 2 every1 4 their support (and) prayers! I'll b back on the field ..." he tweeted.

Owens signed a one-year deal with a \$2 million base salary at the start of training camp, when the Bengals were one of the few teams interested. He proved he could still play, leading the team with 72 catches for 983 yards and nine touchdowns.

He ranked among the NFL's top six receivers in yards and catches heading into the game against Cleveland. He's a free agent after the season, and hopes to play for two or three more years.

Despite Owens' big numbers, the Bengals (3-11) had one of their worst seasons. The victory over Cleveland ended

a 10-game losing streak that matched the longest in club history for one season. They finish at home against San Diego (8-6) and at Baltimore (10-4).

Cincinnati got the breakthrough win by letting running back Cedric Benson become the focus of the offense again, just like last season. The Bengals swept the AFC North by relying on their running game and defense in 2009. They got away from that this year, wanting a more diversified offense.

Now, they'll be looking to run in the last two games.

"You ask anyone on this offense, any of those guys up front, and ask them what they would want to do, and they'd say run the ball," Benson said. "There's the identity of your team right there. Your team is telling you what they want to do."

The run/pass question has bedeviled and divided the offense all season. Owens and receiver Chad Ochocinco — hosts of "The T.Ocho Show" on the Versus cable network each week — wanted to throw the ball more. Benson wanted to go back to running behind

a line that's more adept at grinding it out.

As the losing streak went on, Owens became more outspoken, fingering the coaching staff for the offensive struggles. Benson expressed his opinion earlier in the season, then kept quiet while it all fell apart.

"I know the truth and I'm confident not only in myself, but in what I know is right," Benson said.

"I didn't feel like I needed to say anything to bring anybody down or get any message across."

Benson carried 31 times for 150 yards — both season highs — against the Browns, a performance that amounted to an I-told-you-so moment. He acknowledged that it was difficult to keep going as the team kept losing.

"I remember telling myself six or seven weeks ago: Do not get sucked into what's going on," he said. "What are those deals that horses wear? Blinders? Keep your blinders on."

"It's almost like a gigantic magnet. No matter how hard you try to avoid that and keep from getting sucked into that



Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) rides off the field on a cart with a possible knee injury in the first half of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010, in Cincinnati. Owens return to the game is questionable.

Associated Press

here-we-go-again attitude, it just pulls and pulls and pulls at you week after week after week."

The last two games are a prelude to change. Coach Marvin Lewis declined a contract extension last season and is finishing his deal.

Benson and Owens are free agents. The club has a one-year option on Ochocinco. The Bengals will have a high draft pick.

A franchise with only two winning records in the last 20 years will be starting over. Again. □

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## NBA Roundup

# Pierce stars in Celtics' 99-88 win over Pacers

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Paul Pierce had his seventh career triple-double and Boston extended its winning streak to 13 games by holding off the Indiana Pacers 99-88 on Sunday. Pierce finished with 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his first triple-double since 2006, and the Celtics got a boost from the return of Shaquille O'Neal, who had 11 points after missing four straight games with a sore right calf. Ray Allen added 18 points, scoring 12 in the second half, and Kevin Garnett finished with nine points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who improved to 12-1 at home. Danny Granger led Indiana with 18 points. Roy Hibbert added 17 points and 14 rebounds for the pesky Pacers, who hung with the Celtics until the final few minutes. The Pacers made just 34 of 96 shots, but only had 13 turnovers to Boston's 18 and were almost able to keep

up with the bigger Celtics in rebounding.

TORONTO (AP) — Kobe Bryant scored 20 points, Pau Gasol had 19 and the Los Angeles Lakers won their fifth straight game. Andrew Bynum had 16 points and Shannon Brown 14 for the Lakers, who finished a seven-game road trip at 6-1 and have won eight of nine overall. Matt Barnes had 12 and Lamar Odom 11 for the Lakers, who have won seven of eight against the Raptors. Los Angeles is 11-5 away from home, the most road wins in the NBA.

Bryant started despite a sprained right pinky that he hurt in the opening quarter of Friday's win at Philadelphia.

Toronto's Linas Kleiza matched his season-high with 26 points and had 10 rebounds. DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points while Jose Calderon had 20 points and 12 assists.

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Devin Harris had 22 points

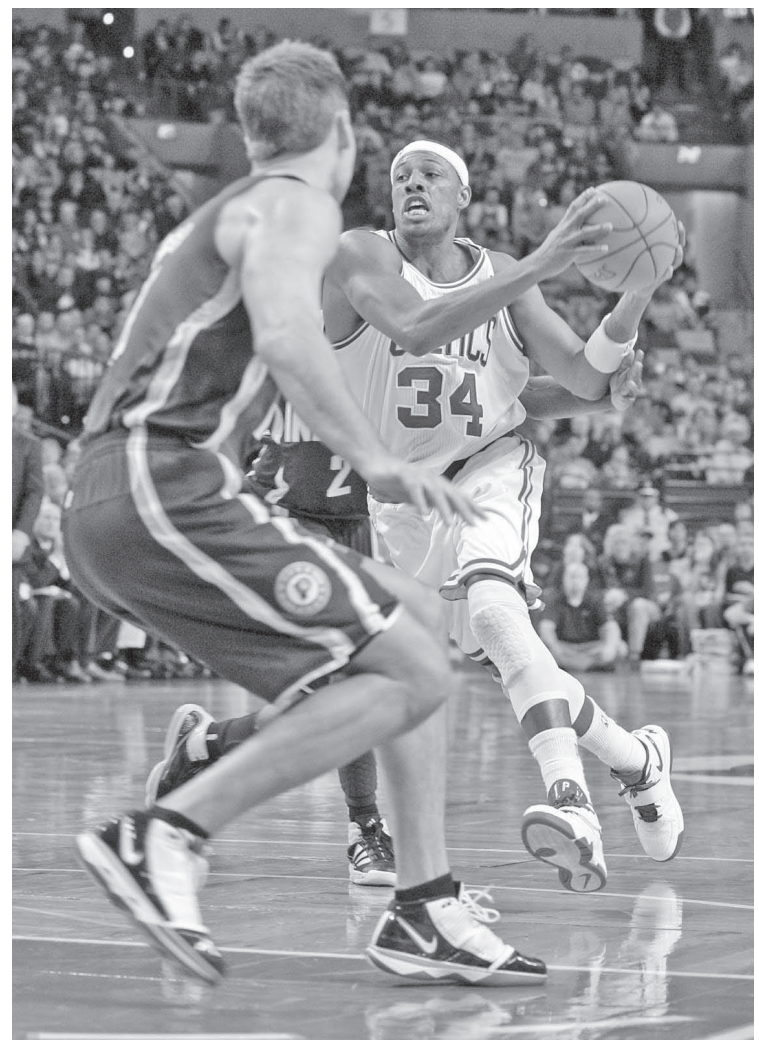
and eight assists, and Brook Lopez added 16 points.

It marked the second straight time that the Nets (8-20) beat Atlanta (17-12) in Newark this season, having earned a 107-101 overtime victory Nov. 23. The Nets went in front early in the fourth quarter and never relinquished the lead, with Lopez scoring six of his points in the final period.

Stephen Graham scored 10 points and Troy Murphy added nine, both season highs, and newly acquired Sasha Vujacic had 10 points off the bench.

Mike Bibby scored 19 points, and Al Horford and Josh Smith added 15 apiece for the Hawks, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Will Bynum made a driving layup with 7.4 seconds left in overtime. Detroit trailed by one after a pair of free throws by David West with 15.0 seconds remaining. After a brief scramble, Bynum picked up the ball in the



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) passes off against the defense of Indiana Pacers' Jeff Foster during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. Pierce had his seventh career triple-double as the Celtics beat the Pacers, 99-88.

Associated Press

backcourt and went straight to the basket, getting a hard pick from Jason Maxiell along the way and scoring while drawing a foul.

In other NBA games it was Boston 99, Indiana 88; New

Jersey 89, Atlanta 82;

L.A. Lakers 120, Toronto 110; Houston 102, Sacramento 93; Detroit 111, New Orleans 108, OT; and Phoenix 113, Oklahoma City 110. □



By COLIN FLY

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee Bucks point guard Brandon Jennings will miss four to six weeks as he recovers from surgery to repair a fracture in his left foot.

General manager John

## Bucks PG Jennings out 4-6 weeks with broken foot

Hammond said Monday that the 21-year-old Jennings was examined after Saturday's 95-86 loss to Utah.

Jennings broke the long bone on the outside of his left foot that connects to the little toe, one of the most common bones to break in the foot. He earlier said he first felt pain in a loss to San Antonio, but kept playing and also played 30 minutes against the Jazz.

"I think it shows you a lot about Brandon, the people who haven't had a chance to watch him in his first year and a quarter, I don't think anyone is going to question his

competitive spirit," Hammond said.

Jennings had started every game since being picked 10th overall in 2009, a string of 107 regular-season games and seven in the postseason. He'd been averaging 17.9 points per game and 5.5 assists in 25 games this year.

Jennings said earlier in the week that he hurt himself on a drive to the basket against the Spurs when he came down awkwardly on his knee and it put pressure on his ankle. Against the Jazz, he went 3 of 7 from the field and finished with six points, four assists

and three rebounds.

"We know we can trust him and we know he's going to be a guy who's going to come back as soon as he's capable and ready," Hammond said. "We know he's tough enough to handle the assignment." Jennings seemed like he was in good spirits, too, for his surgery. He posted pictures of himself in the hospital online, including his wristband for admission and some of the hospital clothing he'd be wearing.

The Bucks have two other point guards in Keyon Dooling and Earl Boykins.

Dooling will take Jennings' spot in the lineup when Milwaukee begins a three-game road trip in Portland on Monday night. Other stops include the Lakers on Tuesday and Sacramento on Thursday. "Most teams try to have three point guards and this is one of the reasons why," Hammond said.

"It's a combination that we'll move forward with."

Forwards Corey Maggette and Carlos Delfino are also not on this trip after both have had symptoms of concussions. Maggette fell and hit his head against Utah, while Delfino sustained a concussion the second game of the season at Minnesota and has missed 18 games.

"No one's going to feel sorry for us," Hammond said. "We still have a job to do, that's win every game that we take floor." □



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NHL Roundup

# Perreault scores 2 in Capitals' win

The Associated Press

OTTAWA (AP) — Mathieu Perreault scored twice, Eric Fehr had a goal and an assist and the Washington Capitals ended their National Hockey League losing streak at eight games, beating the Ottawa Senators 3-2 on Sunday.

Washington scored three times in a 6:21 span early in the second to erase a 2-0 deficit. The Capitals, who also had two goals disallowed, had been held to 11 goals during their 0-6-2 skid.

Michal Neuvirth stopped 24 shots for Washington.

Ryan Shannon and Chris Kelly scored in the first for Ottawa, which hadn't lost through regulation in its previous four games (2-0-2).

DETROIT (AP) — Loui Eriksson scored at 4:18 of overtime to give Dallas a comeback victory over Detroit in a game between the top two teams in the Western Conference.

Eriksson also had two assists, Brenden Morrow scored twice, Brad Richards added a goal and Andrew Raycroft stopped 28 shots to help Dallas pull within a point of conference-leading Detroit.

Pavel Datsyuk and Johan Franzen each had a goal and an assist and Patrick Eaves also scored for Detroit. Chris Osgood made 28 saves in an unsuccessful bid for his 400th career victory.

Eriksson scored on a wrist shot from the left circle.

Morrow tied it with 3:13 left in regulation.

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews, Duncan Keith and Fernando Pisani scored, rookie Corey Crawford made 26 saves and Chicago beat Los Angeles.

The Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks won their second straight game, allowing only one power play after a penalty-free game Friday night in a 4-1 victory over Detroit.

Kyle Clifford and Wayne Simmonds scored for the Kings, and Jonathan Quick stopped 21 shots. They lost in regulation for only the second time in their last eight games (5-2-1).

Avalanche 3, Canadiens 2

DENVER (AP) — T.J. Galiardi broke a second-period tie, Craig Anderson stopped 27 shots and Colorado won its sixth straight game, beating Montreal.

Ryan Wilson and Kevin Porter also scored for the Avalanche, the highest-scoring team in the NHL. Michael Cammalleri and Alexandre Picard scored for Montreal.

**In other NHL matches it was Dallas 4, Detroit 3, OT; Chicago 3, Los Angeles 2;**

**Washington 3, Ottawa 2; and Colorado 3, Montreal 2.**



Washington Capitals' Eric Fehr (16) collides with Ottawa Senators goaltender Brian Elliott (30) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Ottawa, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010.

Associated Press

# Padres finalize \$11.5M, 2-year deal with Hudson

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres finalized their \$11.5 million, two-year contract with second baseman Orlando Hudson on Monday.

The 33-year-old Hudson needed to pass a physical exam.

He spent the 2010 season with the Minnesota Twins and hit .268 with six home runs and 37 RBIs. He replaces David Eckstein, who became a free agent.

"We're thrilled to get him

here to San Diego," general manager Jed Hoyer said. "Our focus at the beginning of the offseason was really to strengthen ourselves up the middle.

I think with the addition of Cameron Maybin, Jason Bartlett and now, Orlando, we feel a ton better about our team up the middle. Orlando is a proven winner, a four-time Gold Glove winner and I

think he's going to bring a ton of offense to our team, a ton of defense and a ton of energy."

Maybin, the center fielder, was obtained from Florida earlier in the offseason and Bartlett was obtained from Tampa Bay last week.

"It's a great young team," Hudson said.

"I saw what they did last year and I'm glad to be a part of it now."

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# SPORTS BRIEFS

## Pitino to coach Puerto Rico in Olympic qualifying

MIAMI (AP) — Former NBA coach Rick Pitino will lead Puerto Rico's national team next year in hopes of qualifying for the 2012 London Olympics.

The Puerto Rico basketball federation on Monday introduced Pitino as its next coach. Pitino met with players and officials Sunday to discuss the possibility.

Puerto Rico last qualified for the Olympics in 2004, beating the United States on its way to a sixth-place finish. Its best Olympic performance was fourth, in 1964 in Tokyo. Potential players for the qualifying tournament in Argentina include Dallas Mavericks point guard J.J. Barea, Miami Heat guard Carlos Arroyo



Louisville coach Rick Pitino shouts instructions to his team during first half action in their NCAA college basketball game against Gardner-Webb in Louisville, Ky., Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.

*Associated Press*

and Denver Nuggets forward Renaldo Balkman.

Pitino has coached at the New York Knicks and Boston Celtics in the NBA. □

## Ex-adviser to athletes sentenced in \$3M fraud case

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — A former financial adviser to Michael Vick and several other National Football League players has been sentenced to more than five years in prison for stealing more than \$3 million from the players in a Ponzi scheme.

U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg said Mary Wong of Omaha was sentenced Monday to 63 months in prison for securities fraud. Wong pleaded guilty in September.

Wong also was ordered to pay more than \$3 million in restitution and serve 3 years supervised released.

Prosecutors say Wong worked out of her Omaha home and purported to sell investments in luxury properties in Arizona, Tennessee and Michigan along with private jets and other investments. Prosecutors say many investments never existed. Instead, they say, Wong used the money to support her other businesses and a lavish lifestyle. □

## Paris Hilton launches new motorcycle team

MADRID (AP) — The world motorcycling championship seems certain to attract a few more headlines next season after Paris Hilton put her name to a new team.

The SuperMartXe VIP by Paris Hilton team was unveiled by the hotel chain heiress in Madrid and will compete in the 125cc category from 2011-2013. Hilton has agreed to attend at least five races next season.

"I can't believe I have my own racing team! So cool! :)" Hilton posted on Twitter while at the launch. □



Paris Hilton poses during the presentation of the new SuperMartXe VIP Paris Hilton 125cc racing team in Madrid Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.

*Associated Press*

# Galaxy: Beckham not going on loan during offseason



Britain's soccer player David Beckham wins the Lifetime Achievement award 2010 during the BBC Sport Personality of the Year Awards at the LG Arena, Birmingham, England, Sunday Dec. 19, 2010.

*Associated Press*

**ROB HARRIS**

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — The Los Angeles Galaxy says David Beckham is expected back at the team next month rather than going on loan to another club during the Major League Soccer offseason.

The 35-year-old midfielder had said that he hoped to play in Europe during the winter to boost his chances of being recalled to England's national team. Beckham spent the last two winters at AC Milan but

the Galaxy is reluctant to send him out on loan again after he injured an Achilles' tendon while playing in Italy in March.

The Galaxy said Monday in a statement to The Associated Press that it is "not aware that David is looking to be loaned to any other team and we are fully expecting he reports with the rest of his Galaxy teammates in late January for the upcoming season." Having missed the first six months of the previous MLS season, Beckham

had previously said he was focused on returning to full fitness rather than seeking another loan move.

But Beckham surprisingly said this week that he intended to play a loan spell somewhere in Europe.

"I won't be going back to AC Milan this time because is not possible to go onto the roster for such a short length of time," Beckham said. "But I will be going back somewhere as I want to keep myself fit and keep myself in with a chance of getting called up for England again. To do that, I have to be somewhere so fingers crossed I can sort something out."

Beckham has made 115 appearances for England — the most for an outfield player.

"My body feels great after my injury," Beckham said. "I always said I needed to get that back into order and keep my fitness and we will see."

Beckham said the only Premier League team he would consider playing for was Manchester United, which he left in 2003 to join Real Madrid.

"Maybe one day I will come back here but I have always said that it will only be for Manchester United," Beckham said. "I am not holding my breath on that one, but we will have to wait and see."

Beckham has one season remaining on his five-year \$32.5 million contract with the Galaxy and has said he has no plans to buy out the final year of the deal. □



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# UConn women a win away from topping UCLA

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — UCLA's 88-game winning streak had just been snapped by Notre Dame in 1974 when Bruins coach John Wooden was asked how long it would be before somebody beat the streak.

"I have no idea how long it will be before somebody else wins that many. I know it takes at least three years," he replied.

Try nearly 37 years. And the University of Connecticut women's team can do it Tuesday night.

Coach Geno Auriemma and his players — just Huskies, never the Lady Huskies — have been so dominant that some in the sports world have even suggested their overwhelming success is no good for the game.

Auriemma took the debate a step further Sunday after UConn's 88th straight win, questioning whether there is a gender bias against his team.

"The reason everybody is having a heart attack the last four or five days is a bunch of women are threatening to break a men's record, and everybody is all up in arms about it," he said.

There is no dispute, however, that the streak has raised the profile of women's basketball by daring to compare UConn's accomplishment to one of the most revered numbers in sports history orchestrated by one of its most hallowed figures.

"Whether you agree or disagree with the time, the era, the competitive balance

— whatever your take on it is, you can put any spin you want on it," Auriemma said. "You can make it better, the same or less — it's just a matter of how you look at it."

UCLA great Bill Walton, who was instrumental in the Bruins' run, said his former coach — who died earlier this year — was aware of UConn's streak.

"The women leave better than when they enter," Walton told The Associated Press last year. "We couldn't be happier for them and couldn't be more proud. I encourage them to enjoy it while it lasts."

While no men's team has approached UCLA's record set from 1971-74, Auriemma and UConn once came close. The Huskies won 70 straight in the early 2000s before tripping up against Villanova. That was a record that many thought would never be achieved again.

Until now. UConn, which hasn't lost since the 2008 NCAA tournament, will pass UCLA with a win over No. 22 Florida State on Tuesday night.

"I like to remind my players all the time, you don't stumble and bumble into the history book," Auriemma said. "You'll have to do it the right way if you want to get in there. It may not come again."

These two great programs were linked even before Connecticut's win over Ohio State on Sunday matched UCLA's mark.

"Did you see all those layups we got today? Some of those backdoor cuts and some of



Connecticut celebrates in the final seconds of its 81-50 win over Ohio State in an NCAA college basketball game in the Maggie Dixon Classic at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010.

Associated Press

that really cool stuff that we were doing?" Auriemma asked. "Get the tape, go break it down, and find out what UCLA was running 37 years ago and you'll see the exact same stuff. So really, how much have things changed." It's not just the X's and O's that Auriemma has adopted from Wooden. It's also the pursuit of excellence. The top block of Wooden's pyramid of success reads: "Competitive Greatness: Perform at your best when your best is required. Your best is required every day."

In the last decade, which includes three perfect seasons, six NCAA championships, a slew of All-Americans

and many sold-out crowds and appearances on national television, Auriemma's teams rarely seem to let down. UConn hasn't lost consecutive games in more than 17 years. "One thing that's non-negotiable is that the one thing we have in common is we settle for nothing less than the absolute best we give you every single night. They did it and we're doing it. Everything else to me is meaningless," Auriemma said.

UConn's feat has left an impression on coaches across the sport. Even those who have had a somewhat frosty relationship with Auriemma can't help marveling at his team.

"It should be really applauded for an incredible accomplishment in what they've done," UConn men's coach Jim Calhoun said Sunday. "Nobody in their sport has done it and I don't think anybody, by the way, ever will, including them. I don't think (UConn) can repeat, even. The game's getting better. It's just an incredible accomplishment." High praise from a Hall of Fame coach, who casts a pretty big shadow himself on the campus in Storrs. Calhoun highly regards coaches C. Vivian Stringer of Rutgers and Pat Summitt of Tennessee, but said UConn's winning numbers speak for themselves.

"It's proving very simply that they're the greatest women's program in the history of women's basketball," Calhoun said. "The streak is the greatest women's feat that you can have."

Summitt, who won't play UConn anymore in the regular season because of a feud with Auriemma, recently lauded the achievement.

"Obviously, they've had tremendous success," she said.

"They know how to win. To break that record is amazing." □

## COACH K

### Continued from Page B1

Krzyzewski is now tied with Dean Smith, who spent 36 seasons at rival North Carolina before retiring in 1997 as the winningest coach Division I history. Krzyzewski can pass Smith by beating North Carolina-Greensboro at the Greensboro Coliseum on Dec. 29. That would leave only Bobby Knight ahead of him, as Knight passed Smith with 902 wins before retiring almost three years ago.

Andre Dawkins scored 17 off the bench for Duke, which took control with a 14-0 first-half run but couldn't put away the Phoenix (4-7) until the final 6 minutes. Coming off a nine-day exam break,

Duke looked flat and a step slow against a program that had never played the nation's top-ranked team since moving to Division I in the 1999-2000 season. In fact, outside of that 14-0 spurt that gave the Blue Devils a 21-8 lead on Singler's 3-pointer with 12 1/2 minutes before halftime, Elon — currently 0-3 in the Southern Conference — played Duke even over the next 26 minutes and trailed just 75-62 on a pair of free throws from Chris Long with 6:34 to play.

The Blue Devils finally closed it out with an 8-0 spurt led by Smith, who sat for about 9 minutes of the second half after picking up his fourth foul. First, he rebounded a missed jumper from Ryley Beaumont and led the break before

finding Dawkins for a 3 from the right wing while drawing a foul from Long. Dawkins made the free throw, then Seth Curry added a pair of free throws before Smith capped the spurt with a jumper that made it 83-62 with 5:32 left. Elon got no closer than 17 points the rest of the night, with Duke getting three straight 3s from Dawkins, Smith and Ryan Kelly to make the score look a lot more lopsided than the game actually was.

Duke has now won 21 straight games dating back to last season's run to the Atlantic Coast Conference and NCAA tournament titles, and 29 of 30 overall. Jack Isenbarger scored 19 points to lead Elon. □



# Lochte looking like an 8-medal threat for London

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — When Michael Phelps won eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, it was a record people thought would last decades — or at least a generation.

Ryan Lochte has other thoughts. The American just completed a Phelps-like program at the short-course world championships and the results over eight events were pretty impressive.

Lochte won all five individual races he entered — just like Phelps in Beijing — and also pushed the United States ahead of Russia to win the 400 medley relay on the final night of competition Sunday, ending with six golds and a silver overall.

The performance showed what Lochte might be capable of at the 2012 London Games.

“He’s certainly establishing himself as the best swimmer in the world, and he’s doing that in a way where I don’t think we’re seeing any end,” said U.S. assistant coach David Marsh. “In many ways, I think we’re just seeing the beginning of what he can do.”

The world records Lochte set in the 200 and 400 individual medleys were the only individual world records set in swimming all year, since high-tech bodysuits were banned at the beginning of 2010.

The only events Lochte didn’t win here were two relays.

The United States took silver in the 800 freestyle and finished fourth in the 400 free. If Phelps and a couple other missing Americans had been here to help out, eight golds would certainly have been within reach for Lochte.

“We all think he can do eight events,” Marsh said.



United States’ Ryan Lochte swims to winning gold in the the Men’s 100m Individual Medley final at the FINA Short Course Swimming World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. Lochte won a total of six gold during the event.

“The great thing about him is he’s very coachable. He proved at the last Olympic trials that he can handle short doubles and he has a good capacity for recovery.” Lochte already beat Phelps in the 200 IM and 200 backstroke at the U.S. championships this summer, then won six golds to Phelps’ five at the Pan Pacific Championships in August.

“Eight gold medals is pretty impossible to surpass, but Ryan is definitely holding his own and I think the rivalry between the two will only make both of them better,” said three-time Olympic champion Natalie Coughlin, who used to swim a grueling multi-event program. “Right now Ryan is swimming very, very well.”

The next major battle between Lochte and Phelps should come in July at the long-course worlds in Shanghai. Then it’s on to the U.S. trials and London. Lochte has not yet calculated

how many events he plans to swim in London.

“I’m just racing, and however many events I’m able to do, I’ll do it,” he said. “But I just like racing, so it could be one event, it could be 20, as long as I’m racing and having fun it doesn’t matter.”

Lochte was clearly having fun Sunday, when all of his skills were on display with three gold-medal performances over the space of two hours.

Lochte led off his busy final night by posting a championship-record 1:46.68 in the 200 back, a massive 2.41 ahead of American teammate Tyler Clary — who is emerging as a possible successor to Phelps and Lochte.

Fighting off fatigue, Lochte then won the 100 IM in 50.86, 0.05 off his semifinal time but still 0.83 ahead of runner-up Markus Deibler of Germany.

It was Lochte’s last race that was most impressive, however.

*Associated Press*

In the medley relay, Russia was out to a solid lead through two legs when Lochte dove in and powered past world champion and world record holder Evgeny Korotyshkin in the butterfly leg. Garrett Weber-Gale maintained the lead and Lochte celebrated the Americans’ first relay victory of the competition on the pool deck.

The fact that Lochte swam so well in the butterfly leg was especially significant — because that’s the leg that Phelps usually swims, and butterfly is far from Lochte’s best stroke.

Opponents have taken note. “If he brings his A-game to the Olympics I don’t have a chance,” said Austrian rival Markus Rogan, who handed Lochte a couple losses at a recent short-course meet.

Rogan, Hungary’s Laszlo Cseh and Clary are shaping up as the top challengers to Lochte in the medley events, where Phelps’ status is in question.

“He has nothing to prove,

that’s the problem,” said Rogan, who is not even sure that Lochte’s performance here will motivate Phelps. “He needs a little bit of a bigger jolt.”

If Rogan is right and Lochte can’t be beaten in the individual events, Lochte’s medal haul in London will come down to how the United States performs in the relays.

While the medley relay and the 800 free still look solid, the Americans must be concerned about France in the 400 free.

Featuring multiple sprint specialists like Alain Bernard, Frederick Bousquet and Fabien Gilot, plus emerging standout Yannick Agnel, France edged out Russia for gold here, and Cesar Cielo’s Brazil took bronze to relegate the United States to fourth.

Phelps secured one of his most difficult golds in Beijing when Jason Lezak beat Bernard in the anchor leg of the 400 free relay, and the French have not forgotten.

“We have to make a plan for that,” Marsh said. “The guys we have on the relay are seasoned veterans, but we have a lot of guys in the U.S. and there’s guys coming up, guys like Josh Schneider and guys like Nathan (Adrian) that are eager to get into that category.”

Lochte, however, appears the most eager of all.

After collecting his award as the Dubai meet’s top swimmer, Lochte literally ran out of the arena to catch a plane home so he can maintain his rigid training regimen. “I’m going to get right back in the pool,” he said. “I’ll take two or three days off for Christmas, but other than that it’s right into training and then get ready for Shanghai.”

And London. □



# The big tease: Motorola, Verizon drop hints about 4G, Android and tablets

A “Honeycomb”-powered tablet from Motorola? 4G-ready Android smartphones on Verizon? Well, neither Motorola nor Verizon Wireless have anything official to say about what they’ve got in store for the Consumer Electronics Show next month, but that hasn’t stopped the mobile giants from teasing us on Twitter and YouTube.

First up is Verizon, which took to its official Twitter feed to hint oh so subtly that Android fans hoping for a dose of 4G speed in their next smartphones won’t be disappointed. Verizon won’t have anything official to announce until January 6, the day of its CES 2011 press conference, but the carrier was happy to stir the pot Monday with this tweet: “Jan. 6 at #CES: #Android and #LTE - could it be like peanut butter and chocolate? YUM!”

It doesn’t take a genius to

put two and two together and make a bold prediction: to wit, that we’ll be seeing some 4G LTE (short for “Long Term Evolution”) Android smartphones during Verizon’s CES presser, which will focus primarily on the carrier’s just-launched 4G data network.

Among the possible 4G Android phones we might see from Verizon next month: this mysterious LG smartphone, which may or may not be a version of the dual-core, Tegra 2-powered Optimus 2X. (The backs of the two phones look slightly different, but hey you never know.)

Another possibility: the long-rumored HTC Mecha, a.k.a. the Droid Incredible HD an enticing possibility, although HTC’s Peter Chou recently told Mobile World Live that an LTE-ready handset from HTC might not arrive until the second half of next year.

Moving along, we’ve got another pretty obvious CES

teaser, this time in the form of a YouTube video from Motorola.

Entitled “Tablet Evolution,” the slick video takes place in what appears to be an exhibit of tablet technology throughout the ages, starting with a wall-sized tablet of Egyptian hieroglyphics (“good graphics, but weight makes difficult for portability,” the wry captions read) before moving on to the Ten Commandments (“excellent durability, but zero flexibility can’t edit”) and the Rosetta Stone (“multilingual support, but low-resolution screen”). The cheeky tablet exhibit also features a couple of slightly newer tablets, including the iPad (“it’s like a giant iPhone, but ... it’s like a giant iPhone”) and the Samsung Galaxy Tab (“Android OS, but Android OS ... for a phone”).

All that is just a preamble, of course, for the final stop on the tour: a tablet covered



by a black shroud, sitting atop a pedestal stamped with Motorola’s distinctive “M” logo and then a bee appears in the frame, buzzing its way right up to the mystery product. “CES 2011,” the final caption reads.

What are we talking about here? Well, it’s a pretty safe guess that this is the same Motorola-built, Tegra 2-powered Android tablet that Google exec Andy Rubin was showing off just a few weeks ago. And what’s the deal

with the bee? Probably a coy reference to “Honeycomb,” the upcoming update to Android that’s said to focus primarily on tablet features.

All in all, very interesting, although there’s also been speculation that the individual Verizon and Motorola rumors which, of course, are being fed by the companies themselves might meld into a single product: a 4G, Android-powered MotoPad. Now that would be worth writing home about. □



Buffeted by hardware delays, management shakeups and defecting executives, mobile giant Nokia is looking more and more like a company in serious need of a game-changer. Could Microsoft and its new Windows Phone 7 OS be Nokia’s knight in shining armor?

That was the hot (if not entirely new) rumor Monday, with Nokia-obsessed blogger and rumor-monger Eldar Mutarzin claiming (in Russian, translation is here) that new Nokia CEO and former Microsoft executive Stephen Elop recently held talks with Microsoft “behind closed doors” about

“expanded cooperation” between the the two companies that could include an “entire line of Windows Phone devices” that would be built by Nokia.

Nokia, of course, has its own new mobile OS, Symbian^3, which powers the new touchscreen N8, as well as MeeGo, its promised mobile OS for high-end smartphones and tablets.

But the delayed and underwhelming N8 met with a muted reception when it shipped back in September, while the first MeeGo devices aren’t expected to ship until next year. Not helping matters is the fact that a key

## Should Nokia and Microsoft join forces?

Nokia executive behind the MeeGo project recently fled the company in the wake of a major management shake-up.

And while Nokia still has a slew of promising Symbian^3-based handsets in the pipeline, its would-be flagship the 4-inch E7 QWERTY slider just saw its ship date slip back into next year to “ensure the best possible user experience.”

Make no mistake: Nokia is still king of the world when it comes to overall handset sales, but with its global market share slipping from 44.6 percent in late 2009 to 36.6 percent in the third quarter of this year, Nokia is looking a little uneasy on its throne.

So, what’s a quick way for Nokia to put the ball in the air? Well, how about partnerships, OS licensing deals, or even a full-on merger? Indeed, there’s long been chatter that Nokia might look to put someone else’s mobile platform on its high-end hardware, with reports coming out just a couple of months ago that

Nokia was talking to Google about Android just weeks after rumors surfaced that Microsoft and Nokia were eyeing each other.

Reactions to the latest Nokia-Microsoft rumors have run the gamut, with GigaOm calling the scenario a “desperation move” and Gizmodo giving the potential deal a “tentative thumb’s up.” WPCentral, which knows its way around Microsoft rumors, says they’re “not holding our breath on this one,” although “we’ll leave the possibility open.”

And if Nokia were to go the Microsoft way, it wouldn’t necessarily be a “zero-sum affair,” ZDNet reminds us, noting that Nokia could “hedge its mobile OS bets in a few places” that is, forge ahead with Symbian^3 and

MeeGo devices while also building its own Android and Windows Phone handsets.

Personally, I’ve long been curious what a Nokia-built Android phone one, say, with Carl Zeiss-designed optics, full-on GPS, and other Nokia hardware touchstones would look like, especially after the relative disappointment of the half-baked N8.

And in Microsoft, Nokia might find a software partner eager to do anything it could to boost the fledgling Windows Phone 7 OS, which is facing an uphill battle in the face of Apple’s iOS and Google’s surging Android platform.

Still, the latest Nokia-and-Microsoft, sitting-in-a-tree rumors are just that rumors, and yes, we’ve heard them before. □





# Betty White voted AP entertainer of the year



NEW YORK — What Betty White did in 2010 doesn't usually happen: an 88-year-old actress with more than six decades in Hollywood suddenly became the object of adulation of the Facebook-connected masses, which campaigned for her to host "Saturday Night Live," boosting the show's ratings and helping her set ratings records for her own show.

After a year remarkable for a star of any age, White has been voted the Entertainer of the Year by members of The Associated Press.

"It's ridiculous," White says of the honor, in an interview from her home in Los Angeles. "They haven't caught on to me, and I hope they never do." But more than acclaim, her unlikely, age-defying success resonated deeply with people who saw in her a spirited, hilarious aberration, a woman not dimmed by age but enhanced by it: The genuine article in a pop culture awash in imitators.

There were 102 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. Voters were asked to cast their ballots for who had the most influence on the entertainment world and culture in 2010. Previous winners include Taylor Swift, Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert. The final tally was close: White's 20 votes beat the cast of "Glee," Fox's hit musical, by only two votes. Tied for third with 13 votes were Conan O'Brien, James Cameron and Apple's iPad. Jon Stewart closely followed with a dozen votes.

White's 2010 began with her acceptance in January

of a lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild. Her speech, in which she thanked SAG "from the bottom of my bottom," reminded many of her talent showcased for years on "The Golden Girls" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" for a sharp comedy cloaked by warm charm.

Gesturing at presenter Sandra Bullock she asked, "Isn't it heartening how far a girl as plain as she is can go?"

The appearance led to a fan-created Facebook campaign urging "SNL" to make her a guest host. After White's award-winning Snickers Super Bowl ad, more than 500,000 were supporting her on the social networking site. It wasn't a new idea to the NBC sketch program, though. White says that she had turned down "SNL" three times before.

"I thought I was so Californian and it's so New York-oriented that I would be like a fish out of water," she says. "This time, my agent said, 'No, you've got to do it.' ... But I was scared to death."

"It was the insecurity, I think, that had me scared," she says, noting that she can't stand using cue cards, a necessity for a live show that's revised until minutes before broadcast. A tip to focus on the cue cards instead of her fellow actors helped, but she still had to adjust. "I thought, 'How do you not look at Tina Fey when you're standing right next to her?'"

But the show came off incredibly. Airing on Mother's Day weekend in May, most of the recent female "SNL" alum returned for the show,

including Fey, Amy Poehler and Rachel Dratch. White appeared in every sketch and the episode was watched by 12.1 million viewers, one of the show's biggest audiences in years. The appearance also won White her seventh Emmy, for outstanding guest actress in a comedy series. Will Forte, a longtime cast member who has since left the show, wasn't alone in describing it as the best show he had ever done.

"Each week is not always super fun," said Forte. "From every step of the way, (that week) was just a joy. There was this energy about her that was so wonderful."

For those who didn't know White, she was a breath of fresh air. For others, they were seeing her anew.

"She re-entered the hearts of all ages in 2010," said Mark Vasche, editor and vice president of the Modesto Bee in California, "from parents and grandparents who watched her on 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show' and 'The Golden Girls,' to their kids and grandkids who discovered her spunky octogenarian style in film and used the Internet to petition for her 'Saturday Night Live' appearance."

## Coens' 'True Grit' a screwball Western

"True Grit" is one of the most mainstream, crowd-pleasing films Joel and Ethan Coen have ever made.

It's sort of a screwball Western, if you will, with vivid performances and strikingly vast, picturesque vistas, the always gorgeous work of the always great Roger Deakins, the Coens' frequent cinematographer.

But it's a minor entry from the writing-directing brothers, especially when you consider the inventiveness and strength of their canon and the close aesthetic resemblance to "No Country for Old Men," their masterpiece. While "True Grit" is entertaining, it's also surprisingly lacking in emotional resonance, as well as the intriguing sense of ambiguity that so often

permeates Coen pictures. Only toward the end does it feel like anything is at stake, but at least it's enjoyable while you're waiting.

All the feting has come as a surprise to White. "It's been phenomenal, but everybody keeps congratulating me on my resurgence and my big comeback," she says. "I haven't been away, guys. I've been working steadily for the last 63 years."

So what changed?

"I don't know," she says. "I've had my own following all that time. If they want me to go away, if they get tired of me, just stop asking me because I keep saying, 'Yes.'"

Thanks to her eagerness, White was everywhere in 2010. She guest starred on "Community" and "The Middle," and co-starred in the movie "You Again."

Though she had initially signed up for only the pilot to TV Land's comedy "Hot in Cleveland," she stuck around for its 10-episode first season and is currently filming its 20-episode second season. The show's first episode set a record for TV Land with nearly 5 million viewers.

"How do you walk away from something that's that much fun?" says White of the show, which also stars Valerie Bertinelli, Jana Leeves

and Wendie Malick. "It's the happiest set in the world."

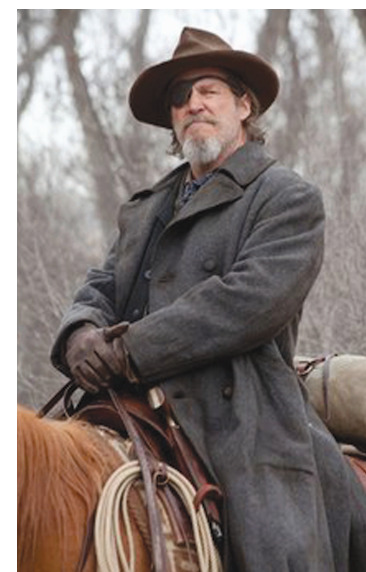
"My sales resistance is not very good," says White. "I have the backbone of a jellyfish."

The season debut on Jan. 19 will guest star White's old friend, Moore. White has plenty else going on, too, including an upcoming Hallmark "Hall of Fame" movie, "The Lost Valentine," and two books due out: "If You Ask Me (And of Course You Won't)" and a photograph book of animals from the Los Angeles Zoo.

Animal welfare is an ardent passion for White, who is a trustee of the Morris Animal Foundation and a member of the board of directors of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association. During a recent interview, her golden retriever, Pontiac, could be heard in the background: "I like to think of him as the Indian chief, not the car," she says.

Next month, White will return to the SAG Awards, where she's nominated for best actress in a comedy series. "Hot in Cleveland" is also up for best comedy ensemble.

Says White: "It's just been a lovely year, I must admit." □



And while Jeff Bridges is stepping into a role so closely associated with The Duke, he infuses it with unmistakable shadings of The Dude. By now we're probably all looking for traces of Bridges' character from "The Big Lebowski," the last film he made with the Coens, in everything he does. It's become such an indelible part of his persona. But The Dude is really here this time. □





# Yuletide Fear: Europe cuts back amid Xmas gloom

Greeks dodge riots to do their Christmas shopping. Italians planning holiday feasts quietly stuff freezers. And the needy in Ireland are literally selling the family silver.

This Christmas, Europeans are hunkering down to an uncertain future, as a debt crisis that erupted last year in Greece flares anew in Ireland, and has quickly threatened to engulf Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

A whole way of life appears to be at stake as Europe's cherished social welfare nets begin to unravel and the very survival of the common currency is thrown into doubt. The new age of austerity is forcing jittery Europeans to tighten belts they've grown

accustomed to loosening during the festive holiday season.

But there's been as much Santa as Scrooge as families find ingenious ways to stay in the spirit of giving.

Here's how struggling Europeans are coping.

Beyond pay-cuts, price hikes and rising unemployment, Christmas shoppers in Athens face an additional challenge this year: Getting to the store. Daily public transport strikes and demonstrations blocking streets have made it harder to hunt for downtown bargains. In extreme cases, shops even provide a haven from rioters.

At one violent rally against austerity measures this month, shoppers hurried into

a department store on Athens' main Syntagma Square to escape clashes and tear gas clouds, suddenly stepping into an eerie refuge of calm in which Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" played in the background.

Strikes and protests are killing off hope of a late surge in sales, with some owners forced to sell off stock in pre-Christmas sales.

"If you have no money in your pocket things are difficult," said downtown gift-shop owner Michalis Papayiannidis, adding business is probably the worst since he opened the store selling toys, plates and fabrics from Africa and Asia 16 years ago.

Garbage strikes, leaving huge



piles of trash on street corners, have only made things worse, he complained.

The National Confederation of Greek Commerce says the crisis had shuttered one in seven retail stores in Athens' main shopping areas by early August. It expects a 20 percent drop in Christmas sales this year from 2009, already one of the worst on record.

"During the Christmas holidays we had a week of protests and transport strikes and people couldn't get to the city ... So that's Christmas gone!" Papayiannidis said.

For Italians, holiday bounty unfolds at the table on Christmas Eve.

Family and friends sit around a festive dining room table groaning under the weight

of several courses from homemade broth with dumplings to fettuccine with costly truffle toppings to pricey fresh fish or lobster, all washed down with countless bottles of sparkling wine.

But for the cash conscious, there's something fishy about this year's preparations especially if you open their freezers.

Fishmonger Loris Trotta said customers are buying fish in advance, then freezing it as protection against the surge in prices that inevitably strikes the week before Christmas.

In a culture where "bella figura" making a good impression is paramount in everyday life, the euro-pinching is a drastic departure from custom. □

## Peugeot China sales could outstrip France by 2015: WSJ

BEIJING – French automaker Peugeot has said its sales in China could pass those in its home market in five years, a report said Monday, underlining the Asian nation's importance as the world's largest car market. Peugeot, a unit of French group PSA Peugeot Citroen, is hoping to sell about 500,000 vehicles by 2015, China-based company executive Timothy Zimmerman told the Wall Street Journal in an interview.

That would exceed the company's performance in France -- where it posts annual sales of about 400,000 cars -- in 2015 or shortly thereafter, Zimmerman said.

China's auto sales for 2009 hit 13.64 million units as the nation took over the title of the world's top auto market from the United States.

In the first 11 months of 2010, total sales rose 34.1 percent on-year to a record 16.4 million units, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said this month. Total 2010 sales are expected to reach 18 million units. Zimmerman said surpassing Peugeot's French sales volume in China was not a "strategic objective" but rather something the automaker "might eventually achieve as our sales in China expand".



The Peugeot executive forecast sales of about 150,000 vehicles this year, up from 112,000 in 2009. The company expects to have a total of 220 dealerships in China by year's end.

PSA Peugeot Citroen has a manufacturing joint venture with Chinese automaker Dongfeng Motor Group. It signed a separate agreement with Changan Automotive Group earlier this year to strengthen its foothold in China.

The French group is Europe's number two automaker in terms of sales behind Germany's Volkswagen. □

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# Hollywood-style special effects give girl new ear



WASHINGTON — Elise Lutz never let her friends see what was left of her ear.

She'd carefully style her long hair into a one-sided ponytail, or swelter under a swim cap for hours at meets, to cover the molten lump from a severe burn as a toddler in her native China.

But as a teenager, the North Carolina girl expressed her desire to be whole again with a simple request: She really wanted pierced earrings. Thus began a months-long quest for a new right ear, one made of silicone but so lifelike that it even glows a bit in the sun like real skin.

Elise benefited from a little known field called anaplastology, where medical artists make Hollywood-like special effects come alive to fix disfigurements that standard plastic surgery cannot.

"It kind of took forever, but it was worth it," says Elise, 14, as she headed to show her transformation to her dad and sisters. "I'm so excited, I'm more than 100 excited."

No messy glue-on prosthetic that she might accidentally knock off. Elise had tried that once and hated it. This time, she would go under the knife to have rods implanted in her skull to snap her new ear into place and hold it even when this passionate swimmer dives into the pool.

"People who have implant-

retained ears or noses or whatever usually think of them really as their own body," says Jerry Schoendorf, who with his colleague at The Anaplastology Clinic in Durham, N.C., and surgeons at nearby Duke University Medical Center created Elise's ear.

"It's the Rolls Royce of what we can offer," adds fellow anaplastologist Jay McClennen.

Facial prosthetics made to counter damage from cancer, trauma, birth defects haven't gained the attention of artificial legs and arms. The specialists who craft them can be hard to find: The International Anaplastology Association counts just 150 members worldwide.

But facial prosthetics are becoming more realistic and longer-lasting, and Elise's journey offers a glimpse of the tricks that help: Titanium rods adapted from dentistry that bond with bone to hold them in place. More flexible silicones. Even "flocking," using those velvety insides of jewelry boxes can help give silicone "skin" more dimension and not in flesh tones, but flecks of bright reds, plums, blues, oranges.

Patients "can't believe all those colors go into making that skin," says McClennen, who now fixes faces using techniques honed in previous

careers to "age" actors in the movies, and in forensic reconstruction.

No one knows for sure how Elise was burned. Probably, boiling water sloshed down her head and right side, says Kim Williams of Wake Forest, N.C., who with her husband adopted Elise from a Chinese orphanage at age 9. Plastic surgery enabled hair to cover the scar-riddled right side of her scalp, a shield as Elise learned English and met new friends.

Plastic surgeons started but abandoned ear reconstruction. Prosthetics made to glue on daily are a more common option, especially for cancer patients whose doctors need to regularly check for recurrences. But that didn't work for Elise. Her scars interfered with a straight fit, and crusty adhesive lined edges where she didn't clean the prosthetic well enough.

Then Schoendorf suggested an implant-retained ear: It would cost about \$8,000 to \$10,000, nearly double an adhesive-retained prosthesis, plus surgery. But where a glue-on ear prosthetic might last about three years before wearing out, the implant-retained one should last twice as long, he says. Replacements will fit onto those same rods, making surgery a one-time hurdle.

In June, Schoendorf and McClennen made a precise mold of where a new ear implant would need to fit. With the residual ear tissue carefully removed, Duke otolaryngologist Dr. David Kaylie then drilled tiny titanium posts into Elise's skull. They barely emerge from the skin.

Over the next few months, bone cells called osteoblasts will fuse with the titanium to anchor those rods, he told her. "If you wiggle it while it's healing, that prevents those

osteoblasts from growing in," Kaylie cautions. "They really have to keep their hands off." Back at The Anaplastology Clinic, McClennen was sculpting the ear that eventually would hook onto those rods with a mere three clicks. Elise's has a bar on the back to snap it on; noses especially are starting to be made with magnets for attachment. Coloring brings out the true art. In the 1990s, as part of a team working on movies like "Nixon" and "Legends of the Fall," McClennen learned to impregnate colorless silicone with a mix of colors so the finished prosthetic required only thin glazing and not heavy paint. Harder acrylic

threaded through the rubbery silicone like cartilage holds the retention bar and, with a technique gleaned at a cancer center in Toronto, McClennen used the right color to mimic that red glow when sunlight shines behind the ear.

Blending where the edges meet real skin is crucial, as is managing expectations, Schoendorf says: "As good as it is, it's not perfect."

The day before Thanksgiving, Elise's new ear is ready to attach, complete with earring hole. She practices clicking it on, surprised that it's easy, and smiles into the mirror, hair tucked back.

"This one looks fantastic," she later proclaims. □

## Ohio face transplant patient meets donor's family



LAKEWOOD, Ohio — The nation's first face transplant patient has said a donor saved her from a life of eating and breathing through a tube, but until this weekend she knew her only as a woman who died in 2008.

Two years after Anna Kasper's face was merged with the remnants of Connie Culp's, Kasper's family decided to reveal she was the donor, so that others can know the generous woman they loved. "She'd give her time. She'd give her money. She gave a

lot of things she didn't have to other people," Kasper's husband, Ron Kasper, told The Plain Dealer newspaper in Cleveland. "When they asked about the donation, we knew it was what she would want to do."

The Kaspers and Culp met for the first time this weekend. Culp, 47, has been thanking her donor since the surgery, but she had never been able to name her. She told The Plain Dealer that the get-together went well after some initially awkward moments.

"They're just really nice people," Culp said. "It's awesome, how much we have in common."

Kasper's 23-year-old daughter, Becky Kasper, says she can see part of her mother in Culp, though their bone structures are different.

"I can definitely see the resemblance in the nose," she told The Plain Dealer. "I know she's smiling down on this, that she's very happy." Culp's husband shot her in the face in 2004. □



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# Dazzling Christmas Constellations Visible in the Winter Sky



Tunir Tezel

The Yuletide evening sky should provide a dazzling sight for anyone willing to brave the cold this season.

The eastern sky is filled with brilliant stars, creating a sort of celestial Christmas tree. This December 2010 sky map depicts a view of some of the constellations visible on Christmas in the Northern Hemisphere.

Distinctive groupings of stars forming parts of recognized constellations, or lying within their boundaries, are known as asterisms. Ranging in size from sprawling naked eye figures to minute stellar arrangements, they are found in every quarter of the sky and at all seasons of the year.

The larger asterisms – ones such as the Big Dipper in Ursa Major and the Great

Square of Pegasus are often better known than their host constellations. One of the most famous asterisms is in the northwest sky these frosty evenings.

The Northern Cross

Originally known simply as “the Bird” in ancient times, without any indication of what sort of bird it was supposed to represent, one star grouping later became the constellation Cygnus, the Swan.

But the brightest six stars of Cygnus compose an asterism more popularly called the Northern Cross. Bright Deneb decorates the top of the cross. Albereo, at the foot of the cross, is really a pair of stars of beautifully contrasting colors: A third magnitude orange star and its fifth magnitude blue companion are clearly

visible in even a low-power telescope.

While usually regarded as a summertime pattern, the Northern Cross is best oriented for viewing now, appearing to stand majestically upright on the northwest horizon at around 8:30 p.m. local time in the Northern Hemisphere, forming an appropriate Christmas symbol. Furthermore, just before dawn on Easter morning, the cross lies on its side in the eastern sky.

The Christmas package

Look over toward the southeast part of the sky at around the same time. Can you see a large package in the sky, tied with a pretty bow across the middle? Four bright stars outline the package, while three close together and in a straight line form the decorative bow.

This is a picture easily put together by our modern imagination, but tradition tells us that those seven stars form a mighty hunter called Orion, the most brilliant of all constellations and visible from every inhabited part of the Earth. Two stars mark his shoulders, two more his knees and three his belt.

As is also the case with the mighty Hercules, the figure of Orion has been associated in virtually all ancient cultures with great national heroes, warriors, or demigods. Yet, in contrast to Hercules, who was credited with a detailed series of exploits, Orion is more of a vague and shadowy figure.

The ancient mythological stories of Orion are so many and so confused that it is almost impossible to choose between them. Even the origin of the name Orion is obscure, though some scholars have suggested a connection with the Greek “Arion,” meaning warrior.

All, however, agree that Orion was the mightiest hunter in the world, and he is always pictured in the stars with his club upraised in his right hand. Hanging from his upraised left hand is the skin of a great lion he has killed, which he is brandishing in the face of Taurus, the Bull, who is charging down upon him. □

## Huge hydro plant starts operation in Vietnam, says official

HANOI – Southeast Asia’s largest hydroelectric power station has begun operating to help ease an electricity shortage in fast-growing Vietnam, an official said Monday.

The first of six turbines at the Son La station was connected to the national power grid on Friday, said Hoang Trong Nam, director of the plant’s management board.

He said the two-billion-dollar plant with a capacity of 2,400 megawatts is expected to be fully operational in 2012, three years ahead of a target set by the National Assembly.

Nam said about 100,000 people mostly from ethnic minority groups were relocated to make way for the reservoir, which stretches across the three provinces of Son La, Lai Chau and Dien Bien in northwestern Vietnam.

Initial plans called for an even larger dam but it was scaled down after deputies in the National Assembly raised concerns about the human and environmental costs of the project, including its safety in an earthquake-prone mountainous region.

Construction finally began in December 2005.

“It’s a strategic project for Vietnam’s energy security in the years to come,” Nam said.



The European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (Eurocham) has cited estimates that the fast-growing country needs infrastructure investment of 120 billion dollars over the next five to 10 years, much of it in the energy sector. □

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# EEU advierte a Venezuela de consecuencias por rechazar embajador

WASHINGTON (AP) - Estados Unidos evaluará cómo responder a Venezuela por retirar su aprobación previa respecto a la nominación de Larry Palmer como embajador en Caracas, y advirtió el lunes que la decisión “tiene consecuencias respecto a la relación bilateral”.

El pronunciamiento del Departamento de Estado le agrega un elemento de tensión a la relación bilateral, y llega una semana después de haber criticado con dureza la ley habilitante que permite al presidente Hugo Chávez gobernar por decreto durante los próximos 18 meses, pese a que el 5 de enero se instalará una nueva Asamblea Nacional con 65 escaños opositores.

P.J. Crowley, portavoz del Departamento de Estado, dijo enfáticamente que “no tenemos planes de retirar la nominación” de Palmer.

En su conferencia de prensa diaria, Crowley reconoció que, ante la decisión de Caracas, es probable que el diplomático no asuma sus funciones

en Venezuela, pero aclaró que “ésta es una decisión para el Senado”, que debe someter a votación la candidatura de Palmer después de que su comisión de relaciones exteriores la aprobara a comienzos de mes.

No está claro si el Senado realizará esa votación en lo que resta del año.

“Es algo que esperábamos que Venezuela no hiciera, pero es un paso que Venezuela ha tomado. Le hemos dejado claro a Venezuela, durante meses, que habría una consecuencia. Y evaluaremos qué hacer tras esta decisión”, agregó. “Precisamente porque hay tensiones en la relación era importante mantener comunicaciones diplomáticas al más alto nivel”.

Crowley relató que el canciller venezolano Nicolás Maduro se reunió la mañana del lunes con la encargada de negocios de la embajada estadounidense, Darnall Steuart, para entregarle una nota diplomática en la que formalmente retira

la aceptación de Palmer como embajador.

Normalmente, los gobiernos que desean enviar un embajador obtienen la aprobación previa del país receptor antes de postular su candidato para su confirmación por el Senado.

Venezuela había aprobado la candidatura de Palmer, pero el presidente Chávez comenzó a pronunciarse en contra de recibirlo poco después de que el diplomático estadounidense se mostrara preocupado por la influencia de Cuba en las fuerzas armadas venezolanas, y dijera que la guerrilla Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia se ha refugiado en Venezuela, al responder a un cuestionario durante su proceso de confirmación en el Senado.

Palmer es un diplomático de carrera del servicio exterior estadounidense, que se desempeñó como embajador en Honduras y encargado de Asuntos Exteriores en Quito. Actualmente es presidente de la Fundación Interamericana. □

## Sismo sacude El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (AP) - Un sismo de magnitud 5,6 sacudió el lunes El Salvador sin reportarse víctimas ni daños, aunque hubo pequeños desprendimientos en laderas del volcán de San Vicente, informaron las autoridades.

El Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos (USGS) reportó que el movimiento telúrico ocurrió a las 17:21 GMT con epicentro frente a las costas del departamento de Usulután, en la región este del país.

El sismo tuvo una profundidad focal de 69,7 kilómetros, detalló el USGS. “Su epicentro fue a unos 30 kilómetros al sur de la desembocadura del río Lempa” en el Océano Pacífico, informó Jorge Meléndez, director de Protección Civil, quien agregó que el movimiento fue sentido en la región central del país, donde se encuentra la capital.

Tras un sondeo en los 14 departamentos no se reportó “ningún problema salvo en el volcán de San Vicente (departamento central del mismo nombre) que hubo unos pequeños desprendimientos”, apuntó Meléndez. El temblor ocurrió en momentos que los 84 diputados de la Asamblea Legislativa realizaban una sesión solemne en San Vicente, debido a las festividades patronales de ese departamento. No se reportaron incidentes durante la sesión. □

## Influyente político mexicano liberado tras secuestro



El ex candidato presidencial mexicano Diego Fernández de Cevallos habla con periodistas fuera de su casa en la Ciudad de México, el lunes 20 de diciembre de 2010. (Foto AP/Claudio Cruz)

MEXICO (AP) - Después de permanecer poco más de siete meses secuestrado, el ex candidato presidencial mexicano Diego Fernández de Cevallos fue puesto en libertad por sus captores y reapareció el lunes frente a su residencia en la capital mexicana, luciendo débil pero afirmando que está bien.

Fernández de Cevallos, un prominente e influyente político mexicano, fue candidato presidencial en 1994. Estaba desaparecido desde mayo, cuando el vehículo en el que viajaba fue hallado abandonado cerca de su rancho en el estado de Querétaro, en el centro del país.

Fernández de Cevallos fue candidato presidencial en 1994, lucía una barba más grande de lo común, bajó frente a la casa tras descender de un vehículo. Habló brevemente con los periodistas que lo esperaban en el lugar, con una voz relativamente débil. “Me encuentro bien, gracias a Dios. Estoy fuerte y mi vida seguirá siendo la misma”, dijo en declaraciones que fueron transmitidas en vivo por la televisión mexicana. La prensa local difundió en octubre que la familia del político había pagado un rescate de más de 20 millones de dólares, aunque la familia jamás confirmó la versión. □







## Tapas Bar and Restaurant

### CHRISTMAS MENU



#### Appetizer

Ceasar Chicken Salad

or

Home-Made Lobster Bisque

#### Entree

Pork Tenderloin With Foie Gras & Red Wine-Mushroom Sauce

or

(Spicy) Gambas Blushed In Cognac

Both Served With Mashed Potato Gratinated With Cheese & Vegetables

#### Dessert

Grand Dessert

"Secrets Of S&P"

or

Coffee or Tea

**\$ 29.75 p.p. incl. 1 glass of Gluhwein or Sangria**

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